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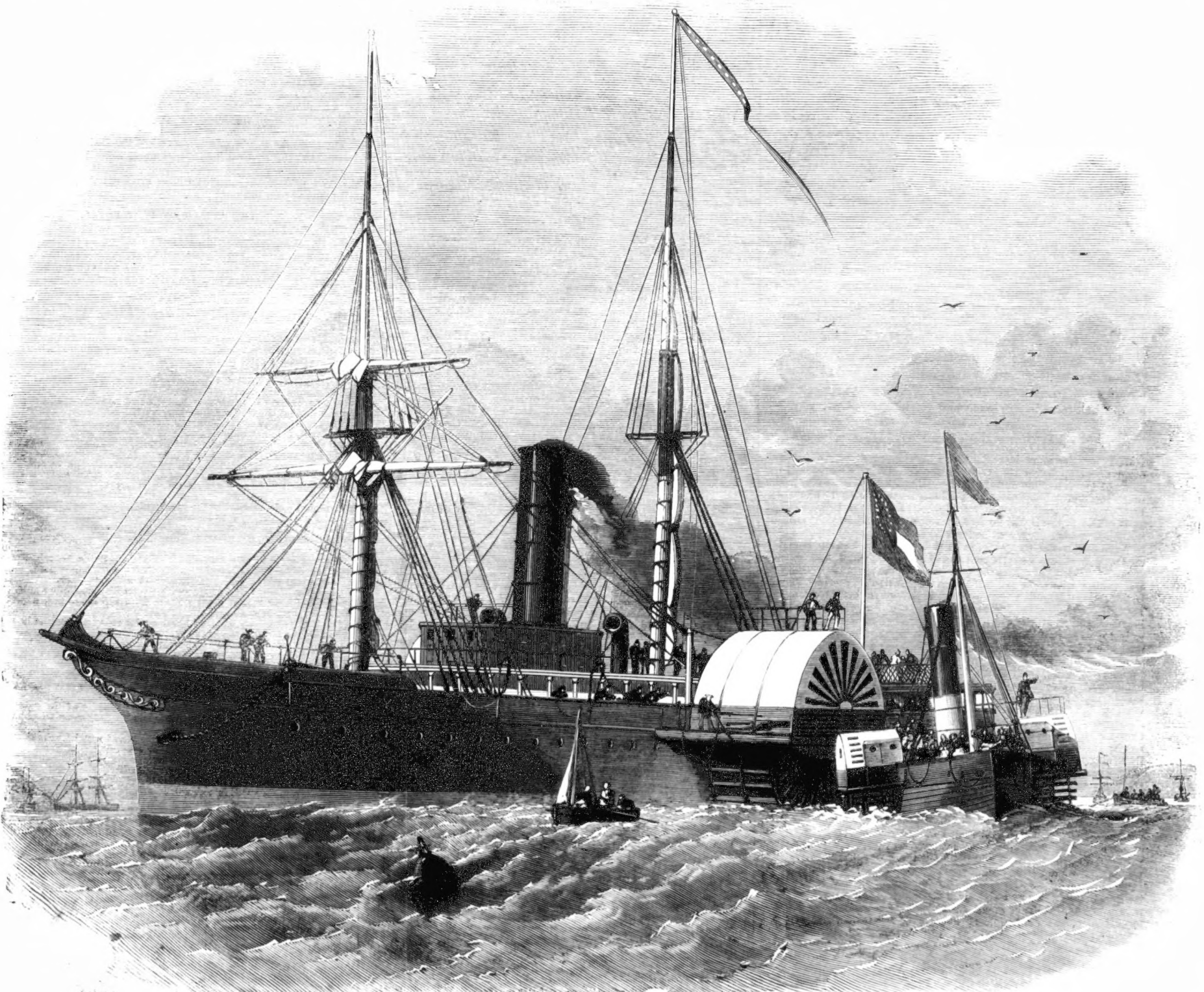
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THE TOPIC OF THE DAY.

"THE national pulse beats Shakspeareanly," writes the enthusiastic Mr. Halliwell, and with truth, though not exactly in his sense. The heart of the nation throbs with pure patriotism. A gross outrage has been offered to a flag that has been draped in woe but never known dishonour. The insult has been accepted by every man worthy of the name of Englishman as personal and directed against himself individually. Under an unparalleled provocation the bearing of the British people has been calm, resolute, and dignified. At first it seemed possible that there might have been some mistake which could be explained—some misunderstanding which could be cleared away. Though rude and offensive in his manner, the American officer, it was urged, might perhaps be justified by international law in the essential part of his proceedings. If his error was one only of form and not of substance it would be ignoble to bear much resentment for conduct, however outrageous, that was merely attributable to a defective judgment. Besides, some doubts were entertained as to the precise character of the captured Commissioners. Might they not, in fact, be articles contraband of war? Simply as rebels, their persons were, of course, inviolable under the British flag, and even as criminals they could only be delivered up to a warrant under the Treaty of Extradition. Then, if they themselves were not

contraband, in what light were their despatches to be regarded? These documents were addressed, indeed, to neutral Powers, but their purport was avowedly hostile to the Federal Government, against which they were intended to raise up new enemies. There could be no doubt that, be this as it might, Captain Wilks had acted improperly in taking four passengers out of an English mail-packet, and also that Lieutenant Fairfax had conducted himself in a very ungentlemanly manner; but nations do not go to war nowadays upon points of punctilio, nor is it right that thousands should suffer for the excessive zeal of one man and the harshness of another. So the people of England determined to "sleep on 't," and allow full time for reflection before they gave the reins to their wrath and let loose the dogs of war. In so doing they did well, for now they will carry with them into the apparently-inevitable contest the goodwill and moral support of all civilised nations. It must be confessed, too, that they were kept no long time in suspense. With commendable diligence the law officers of the Crown speedily made themselves master of all parallel or analogous cases, whence they arrived at the conclusion that the conduct of the American Captain was without precedent and wholly unjustifiable. If he had reason to believe that the mail-steamer had contraband articles on board, his proper course would have been to carry her into the nearest American port and leave it to a Court of Admiralty to decide

whether or not she was lawful prize of war. Instead of acting in this obvious manner, he constituted himself—or rather his Lieutenant—both accuser, witness, and judge, and set at naught every principle that regulates the comity of nations. It could not have been as the bearers of hostile despatches that he seized upon the persons of the Confederate Commissioners, for their despatches were never discovered; so that, positively, there was no evidence to convict them of the offence, if it be one, of conveying a communication from a belligerent to a neutral Power. Moreover, at that time the Northern States refused to recognise the Secessionists as *bellum gerentes*. They were rebels and traitors, and in that character their persons were as sacred under a neutral flag as was that of Kossuth when claimed by the Austrians. Now, indeed, it is convenient to speak of these Commissioners as Ambassadors from the Confederate States to the two great maritime Powers of Europe. But this new view of the case in no way affects the question as to the right of seizing peaceful passengers sailing under a friendly flag. There is absolutely not a single plea to be advanced, either in justification or extenuation, of this most extraordinary proceeding, and thus the most pacific Ministry in the world has been compelled to demand immediate and ample reparation. That the American Government will venture to yield to this just reclamation in presence of an ignorant press and a presumptuous mob it would be folly to hope or



LANDING THE CREW OF THE HARVEY BIRCH FROM THE CONFEDERATE WAR-STEAMER NASHVILLE AT SOUTHAMPTON.



imagine; but it does not necessarily follow that they will accept the alternative of war. A middle, if not a very dignified, course is at present open to them, and of which they are not unlikely to avail themselves. The spontaneous visits of the foreign Ministers to Lord Lyons will have sufficiently indicated the opinion of all civilised nations to convince them that not even sympathy is to be expected from any European Government or people. Acting upon this hint, they may consult their safety rather than their honour by at once liberating their captives and sending them, with a flag of truce, to the Confederate camp. The temporary dismissal from the naval service of the Captain of the San Jacinto, and an expression of regret, will, in that case, avert the horrors of war, though without effacing the memory of the insult so gratuitously offered. But if, on the other hand, Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet should rashly decide upon appealing to arms, it is worth while to consider in what manner hostilities will be conducted. The lateness of the season precludes our own Government from sending any large reinforcements to Canada, and the same reason will militate against the despatch of a flotilla of gun-boats up the Potomac. The Federal Navy, indeed, will fall an easy prey to the overwhelming force that can be brought against it, and the commercial marine will be utterly annihilated. The seaboard on each side of the North American continent will lie at the mercy of English cruisers, with the possible exception of New York, the entrance to which is strongly fortified. Then, by raising the blockade of the Southern ports, abundant supplies of cotton will once more pour into Liverpool, to be thence distributed through the manufacturing districts, while guns, ammunition, manufactures, and hardware will be freely imported into New Orleans and Charleston, and the Secessionists placed in a position to assume the aggressive. What may be the ultimate results of a successful war it is yet premature to predict; but the independence of the Confederate States, the formation of a Western Republic, and the rectification of our own frontier line, may be looked for by the least sanguine. So far as present expediency is alone taken into account, it might form the subject of a legitimate aspiration that the Northern Government should refuse to make any apology or reparation, and so bring about a state of open hostility. Never was England better prepared for war: never did a more martial spirit inflame the people; never were the chances of a complete triumph more one-sided and favourable. And yet the feeling of the nation is opposed to what many regard as a civil war. Men shrink from shedding the blood of a kindred race, sprung from a common ancestry and united to us by a thousand sympathies and associations. Nothing short of the fear of national disgrace could overcome this natural and generous repugnance to cross swords with our own kinsmen; but no nation has ever survived the loss of its honour, and England has already submitted to more affronts than is consistent with her high position among the peoples of the earth. Before the close of the present month the question will be decided, and by the first day of the ensuing year the blast of war may once more be blowing in our ears. It is a sad and fearful alternative; but at least we shall possess that triple force which is said to be derived from the justice of a quarrel. Having done all in our power to avoid such a lamentable conclusion, it will only remain for us to acquit ourselves like men, and so transmit untarnished to posterity the bright inheritance of honour bequeathed to us by our great and glorious ancestors.

THE NASHVILLE AND THE HARVEY BIRCH.

But for the more important, and to us more deeply interesting, occurrences on board the Trent, there can be little doubt that the affair of the Nashville and the Harvey Birch would have occupied a much more prominent place in public attention than it now does. But, even as it is, it may fairly be doubted if we have heard the last of it. The Federals will no doubt have a large amount of surplus indignation to discharge at us for having allowed a Confederate ship to come into one of our ports, to be repaired there, and to land the crew of a Northern vessel which she had just captured and burned at sea. We will, of course, be taunted with perfidy and hostility to the North; we will be asked if this is our neutrality; while it will be altogether forgotten that we only a few days before allowed a Federal war-ship, the James Adger, to coal and refit in the same harbour, and that, too, as it now appears, when she was lying in wait to perpetrate the same violation upon our mail-steamer in or near our own waters which the San Jacinto has done in the Bahama Channel. But, in truth, we acted in the affair in the most rigidly impartial manner. What we had allowed to the ship of the one belligerent, we could not in fairness refuse to that of the other. But we did more; we heartily condemned the seemingly purposeless, wanton act of the destruction of the Harvey Birch—a peaceful merchantman, pursuing her lawful avocation—and we heartily sympathised with the crew of that vessel in their misfortune, we kindly received them when landed nearly destitute on our shores, and afforded them all the facility in our power to obtain redress from the spoiler without committing a breach of our neutrality or straining the law in their favour. A kinder welcome, a warmer interest, or a more cordial sympathy with misfortune, could not have been evinced under any circumstances than was experienced by the captain and crew of the Harvey Birch when they were cast, as it were, on our protection at Southampton; and if Americans of the North are incapable of appreciating either our public or private action in this affair, we cannot help it: they are more to be pitied for their opaqueness of mental vision than we can have reason to wince under their abuse.

The destruction of the Harvey Birch jarred upon our sentimental feelings in another way besides the mere fact of a wanton and unnecessary act of violence being committed. Her name is that of a prominent personage in one of Fenimore Cooper's most brilliant novels—Harvey Birch the spy, the agent, and the friend of Washington; and she therefore was a sort of reminiscence of an old and gallant struggle in which both North and South participated, and have an equal right to be proud of. Surely, then, Commander Pegrim might have turned the torch aside and spared a ship which recalled the name of the poor pedlar who served his country so faithfully and well, who suffered so intensely in doing so, and who finally sealed his devotion to her by calmly braving death and obloquy in her cause.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The French Senate met at Paris on Monday, when the draught of the Senatus Consultum for giving the Corps Legislatif additional control over the finances was presented. The chief points conceded are that the Budget, instead of being presented as a whole, will be divided into sections, and that no extraordinary or supplementary credits can be granted except by a special law. Authority, however, is given to the Government to authorise the transfer of sums from one vote to another, which will greatly lessen the securities of the other concessions seem to confer. Indeed, the real power of control conceded to the Chamber appears to be of the smallest description.

The following significant hint appeared in the *Moniteur* a few days ago, and shows that freedom of discussion is by no means a thing to be tolerated in France:—"The Emperor, by his memorable acts of the month of November, 1860 and 1861, has spontaneously rendered homage to the principle of the perfectibility of the Constitution; but, as the journals are criticising and discussing the Constitution, it becomes necessary to remind them that the Constitution must remain independent of any discussion, and that the law on the press protects it against all attacks of which it might become the object."

The Paris evening papers publish "under reserve" a despatch from St. Domingo, dated Nov. 9, announcing that General Santana, who surrendered St. Domingo to Spain, had issued a *pronunciamiento* against the Spanish Government.

The course which the Emperor will take in the Anglo-American quarrel is the principal subject of discussion in Paris, and all sorts of opinions are hazarded. The *Temps* says his Majesty has tendered his good services to our Government to settle the difficulty; and the *Patrie* thinks that, should a war arise, the Emperor will adopt a policy identical to our own, and propose joint operations. The American Minister in Paris is in daily intercourse with M. Thouvenel, endeavouring, no doubt, to win France to the side of the Union. The Americans are giving proof of their belief in an approaching war by their rapid flight homeward.

BELGIUM.

The debate in the Belgian Chamber of Deputies on the recognition of the kingdom of Italy terminated by the adoption of an amendment to the effect that Belgium, faithful to her position as a neutral Power, should abstain, as she always had done, from interfering in the affairs of other nations. The amendment was carried by 62 votes against 47.

SPAIN.

Baron Tecco, the Italian Minister, arrived at Barcelona on the 30th ult., and was received by a numerous body of Spanish, Italian, and French Democrats. His Excellency delivered a speech, in which he expressed a hope that Italy would triumph over all her enemies, and that the Italian flag would wave over Venice and Rome. An immense number of persons accompanied Baron Tecco to the quay, whence he embarked for France.

It is announced that the funds are now ready for the payment in Paris, London, and Amsterdam of the dividends on the Spanish foreign debt falling due on Dec. 31.

PORTUGAL.

As yet no change has taken place in the Ministry, but it is very probable there will soon be something of this sort to notice.

The antique custom of breaking the shields—a rite which has descended from the age of chivalry—was celebrated on the 26th ult. with due pomp and solemnity. This ancient ceremonial takes place whenever a King of Portugal dies; and, although the lapse of time has given rise to a strange mixture of ancient and modern usages, the custom is still imposing and worthy of notice.

ITALY.

All the journals approve the recall of Baron Tecco from Madrid. Brigandage is increasing in the province of Basilicata, and the brigands are now concentrating their force for a great effort. Some brigand chiefs, bearers of important papers, have been shot.

A bill for the temporary occupation of the convents by the military was brought forward on the 28th ult. in the Senate. Urgency was demanded for the passing of this bill, as it will shortly be necessary to provide lodging for 93,000 recruits.

Baron Ricasoli stated in the Senate that the relations between Italy and France continue to be of the most cordial nature. He said also that the accounts of brigandage in the Neapolitan provinces were exaggerated, that the number of brigands in the Basilicata does not exceed 250, and that a reinforcement of 2000 carabinieri would shortly be dispatched into that province.

Garibaldi arrived unexpectedly at Genoa on the 2nd inst., and proceeded at once to the office of the Central Italian Committee, over which he is president, and during the evening addressed a few words from the balcony of the house where he is staying to an enormous crowd assembled beneath. He said:—"With you it must be deeds, not words. At the moment of battle I shall be with you." Garibaldi arrived in Turin on Wednesday.

The Papal Government has addressed a circular to the Bishops of Maritime ordering them to afford every assistance to all Bourbonites entering that province.

Letters from Rome bring an extraordinary account of a ferocious attack upon some villages near the Roman frontier made by a brigand gang, which was headed by a young Belgian nobleman, a cousin of the wife of the Italian Envoy in Belgium. While the brigands were actually destroying some houses the Italian troops came up. The Bourbonian heroes, as usual, ran away, all but the leader, who was taken "red-handed," tried by court-martial, sentenced to death, and shot upon the scene of his ill-fated and criminal attempt.

AUSTRIA.

An Austrian division, which had crossed the frontier for the purpose of demolishing the batteries erected by the insurgents of the Herzegovina on the military road between Klek and Ragusa, and thereby securing freedom of communication, had executed its task without firing a single shot, and retired to its station.

The Emperor was to leave Vienna on the 30th for Venice, where he intends to remain for eight days.

Dr. Hein, President of the Chamber of Deputies, has been appointed Minister of Justice.

All the new functionaries have already been appointed in all the Comitats in Hungary. The Cardinal Archbishop of Gran will be superseded in his functions as Obergespan of the Comitats of Gran.

POLAND.

The Marquis Wielopolski having tendered his resignation, it is stated that the Emperor has accepted it, relieving the Marquis of all his functions until further orders. Much agitation is said to have been excited in Warsaw by this event. The Marquis is reported to be en route from St. Petersburg to Berlin.

The Council of State continues to discuss the question whether civil rights shall be granted to the Jews in Poland.

It was expected that General Liders would leave Warsaw shortly, and that General Bezac would be appointed Governor of Poland.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Some disturbances are reported to have occurred in the Lebanon, and that some persons had been arrested in consequence.

On the 27th ult. the Montenegrins attacked Setzane, burnt Meraki, on the Lake of Sentari, and afterwards proceeded to the island of Tongemille. Turkish troops have been sent against them

from Antivari and Sentari. Some successes gained by the Turks at Scharitza and Koloschin are reported, but the interest in this petty war is slight in view of the much more important events occurring elsewhere.

SOUTH AMERICA.

There is no news of importance from Buenos Ayres. The town of Parana had been abandoned, and was quiet.

Deceui remained at Santa Fe, and had refused to resign. The province of Tucuman is in a state of complete anarchy. General Nazar had been appointed Military Governor of Rosario.

INDIA.

Lord Canning visited Allahabad on the 1st of November, where he invested Scindia, Holkar, and other Indian Princes, who stood by us in the late rebellion, with the Star of India. Disturbances had arisen in Nowgong, Assam, and an armed mob had killed Lieutenant Singer, of the 75th Regiment, while engaged in collecting the taxes. We regret to add that the telegraph announces the death of Sir Richmond Shakspear.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

At the date of the last advices from America the stoppage of the Trent and the capture of the Confederate Commissioners formed the leading topic of discussion on the other side of the Atlantic. We have given in another column some particulars on this head, and need not dwell further on it here.

There had not been any further fighting of importance reported from any quarter, though a few items of news of occurrences in Washington and other places may be mentioned.

It does not appear that the Federal forces have yet taken possession of Beaufort, though it seems certain that the Confederates had partially destroyed and evacuated it. It is stated, however, that troops were being sent by the Secessionists to that point, and further fighting is anticipated. The Federals, however, have occupied Hilton Island, the cotton crop on which was found to have been fired by the residents before leaving. The New York journals state that the Federal Government has not determined whether Beaufort shall be made a port of entry. The Southern journals state that black flags have been hoisted at Charleston and Savannah as an indication that no quarter would be given, and that none would be asked.

Eighteen Federal officers, prisoners of war at Richmond, have been selected to be hanged, should the Federal Government hang the crew of the privateer Savannah.

Confirmatory accounts have been received of bridge-burning on a most extensive scale by the Union men of East Tennessee and Missouri.

The Federal army has evacuated Springfield, Missouri, returning to St. Louis.

It is reported that an United States' war-vessel has captured a large British steamer, supposed to be the Fingal, laden with arms, at Key West.

Colonel Cochrane, in addressing his regiment at Washington, urged the arming of the Southern slaves against their masters. The Secretary of War was present on the occasion, and is reported to have fully indorsed Colonel Cochrane's speech.

The Southern journals report that Jefferson Davis has been elected President, and Stephens Vice President, of the Confederate States, for a term of six years.

Federal troops, intended for the South, continue to arrive at Annapolis.

The Confederates have again attacked the Federals at Santa Rosa Island, but the Federal fleet shelled them off.

The Georgia planters have held a convention, in which it was resolved that, if the present cotton crop remain unsold, they will not plant any cotton next year.

THE ATTACK ON PORT ROYAL.

The official despatches of the commanders of the expedition to Port Royal have been published. The attack on that place appears to have been altogether made by the naval portion of the expedition, and the despatch of Commodore Dupont which we print below is, therefore, all that need be given on the subject:—

Flag-ship Wabash, off Hilton's Head, Port Royal Harbour, Nov. 6.

Sir,—The Government having determined to seize and occupy one or more important points upon our Southern coast, where our squadrons might find shelter, possess a dépôt, and afford protection to loyal citizens, committed to my discretion the selection from among those places which were thought available and desirable for these purposes.

After mature deliberations, aided by the professional knowledge and great intelligence of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Fox, and upon taking into consideration the magnitude to which the joint naval and military expedition had been extended, to which you had called my attention, I came to the conclusion that the original intentions of the department would fall short of the expectations of the country and of the capabilities of the fleet, while Port Royal, I thought, would meet both in a high degree.

I therefore submitted to General Sherman, commanding the military part of the expedition, this modification of our earliest matured plans, and had the satisfaction to receive his full concurrence, though he and the commanders of the brigades very justly laid great stress on the necessity of getting this frigate into the harbour of Port Royal.

On Tuesday, the 29th of October, the fleet under my command left Hampton Roads, and, with the army transports, numbered fifty vessels. On the day previous I had dispatched the coal-vessels, twenty-five in number, under convoy of the Vandalia, Commander Hegerarty, to rendezvous off Savannah, not wishing to give indications of the true point of the fleet.

The weather had been unsettled in Hampton Roads, though it promised well when we sailed. But off Cape Hatteras the wind blew hard, and some ships got into the breakers, and two struck without injury.

On Friday, Nov. 1, the rough weather soon increased into a gale, and we had to encounter one of great violence from the south-east, a portion of which approached to a hurricane.

The fleet was utterly dispersed, and on Saturday morning only one sail was in sight from the deck of the Wabash.

On the following day the weather moderated, and the steamers and ships began to reappear. The orders were open, except those to be used in case of separation.

These last were furnished to all the men-of-war by myself, and to the transports by Brigadier-General Sherman. As the vessels re-formed, reports came in of disasters.

I expected to hear of many; but, when the severity of the gale and the character of the vessels are considered, we have only cause for great thankfulness in reference to the men-of-war.

The Isaac Smith, the most efficient, well-armed vessel for the class, which was purchased, but was not intended to encounter such a sea and wind, had to throw her formidable battery overboard to keep from foundering; but, thus relieved, Lieutenant-Commanding Nicholson was enabled to go to the assistance of the chartered steamer Governor, then in a very dangerous condition, and on board of which was our fine battalion of Marines, under Major Reynolds.

They were finally rescued by Captain Ringold, of the frigate Sabine, under difficult circumstances, soon after which the Governor went down. I believe that seven of the Marines were drowned by their own imprudence.

Lieutenant-Commanding Nicholson's conduct in the Isaac Smith has met my warm commendations. The Peerless transport, in a sinking condition, was met by the Mohican, Commander Gordon, and all the people on board, twenty-six in number, were saved under very peculiar circumstances, in which service Lieutenant W. H. Miller was very favourably noticed by his commander.

On passing Charleston I sent in the Seneca, Lieutenant-Commanding Ammen, to direct Captain Lardner to join me with the Susquehanna at Port Royal without delay.

On Monday, at eight o'clock in the morning, the Niagara got off the bar, with some twenty-five vessels in company, and many heaving in sight. The department is aware that all the aids to navigation had been removed, and the bar lies ten miles seaward, with no feature on the shore line with sufficient prominence to make any bearings reliable.

But by the skill of Commander Dove and Mr. Boutelle, the able assistant of the coast survey, in charge of the steamer Vixen, the channel was immediately found, sounded out, and buoyed. By three o'clock I received assurances from Captain Dove that I could send forward the lighter transports,

those under eighteen feet, with all the gun-boats, which was immediately done.

Before dark they were securely anchored in the roadstead of Port Royal, South Carolina. The gun-boats almost immediately opened their batteries upon two or three rebel steamers under Commander Tatnall, instantly chasing him under the shelter of the batteries.

In the morning Commander John Rodgers, of the United States' steamer Flag, temporarily on board this ship, and acting as my Staff, accompanied Brigadier-General Wright in the Ottawa, Lieutenant-Commanding Stevens, and supported by the Seneca, Lieutenant-Commanding Nicholson, made a reconnaissance in force, which drew the fire of the batteries at Hilton's Head, and Bay Point, sufficiently to show that the fortifications were works of strength and scientifically constructed.

On the evening of Monday Captain Dove and Mr. Boutelle reported water enough for the Wabash to venture in. The responsibility of hazarding so noble a frigate was not a light one. Over a prolonged bar of over two miles there was but a foot or two of water to spare, and the fall and rise of the tides such that if she had grounded she would have sustained most serious injury from stranding, if not total loss.

Too much, however, was at stake to hesitate, and the result was entirely successful.

On the morning of Tuesday the Wabash crossed the bar, followed closely by the frigate Susquehanna, the Atlantic, the Vanderbilt, and other transports of deep draught, running through that portion of the fleet already in.

The safe passage of this great ship over the bar was hailed by gratifying cheers from the crowded vessels.

We anchored, and immediately commenced preparing the ship for action, but the delay of planting the buoys, particularly on the Fishing Rip, a dangerous shoal we had to avoid, rendered the hour late before it was possible to leave with the attacking squadron.

In our anxiety to get the outline of the forts before dark, we stood in too near those shoals, and the ship grounded.

By the time she was got off it was too late, in my judgment, to proceed, and I made signals for the squadron to anchor out of gunshot from the enemy.

The negroes are wild with delight and revenge. They have been shot down, they say, like dogs because they would not go off with their masters.

I have already a boat at Sowell Creek, and the communication between Savannah and Charleston is cut off.

DEFENCES OF NEW ORLEANS.

The following description of the defences of New Orleans has reached us by the last mail:—

New Orleans, Oct. 25.

The Mississippi is fortified so as to be impassable for any hostile fleet or flotilla. Forts Jackson and St. Philip are armed with 170 heavy guns (30-pounders, rifled by Bashley Britten, and received from England). The navigation of the river is stopped by a dam at about a quarter of a mile from the above forts. No flotilla on earth could force that dam in less than two hours, during which it would be within short and cross range of 170 guns of the largest calibre, many of which would be served with red-hot shot, numerous furnaces for which have been erected in every fort and at every battery.

In a day or two we shall have ready two iron-cased floating batteries. Their plates are 4½ in. thick, of the best hammered iron, received from England and France. Each iron-cased battery will mount twenty 30-pounders, placed so as to skim the water, and strike the enemy's hull between wind and water. We have an abundant supply of incendiary shells, cupola-furnaces for molten iron, Congreve rockets, and fire-ships.

Between New Orleans and the forts there is a constant succession of earthworks. At the plain of Chalmette, near Janin's property, there are redoubts armed with rifled cannon, which have been found to be effective at five miles' range. A ditch 30 ft. wide and 20 ft. deep extends from the Mississippi to La Cyprien.

In Forts St. Philip and Jackson there are 3000 men, of whom a goodly portion are experienced artillerymen and gunners who have served in the Navy.

At New Orleans itself we have 32,000 infantry, and as many more quartered in the immediate neighbourhood. In discipline and drill they are far superior to the Northern levies. We have two very able and active Generals, who possess our entire confidence—General Mansfield Lovell and Brigadier-General Ruggles. For Commodore we have old Hollins—a Nelson in his way.

We are ready to give the Yankees a hot reception when they come. I write you in a very calm and confident mood. Around me all are mad with excitement and rage. Their only fear is that the Northern invaders may not appear. We have made such extensive preparations to receive them that it were vexatious if their "invincible armada" escaped the fate we have in store for it.

ENGLAND AND MEXICO.

The Morning Post of Saturday contained the following announcement:—

We understand that Government has received by the last mail information of the agreement of Mexico to a convention by which our requirements are one and all fully conceded. Sir Charles Wyke, powerfully seconded no doubt by the rumours of our intentions which must have crossed the Atlantic, has been able to negotiate and conclude terms by which full satisfaction is given to us; and the Mexican Government, alarmed, in all probability, for the consequences of its own conduct, has complied with the demands which we had hitherto addressed in vain to its sense of justice, and which we had sent out a naval expedition to enforce. This capitulation on the part of the Government of Mexico is, we understand, unequivocal and complete.

We are to have compensation for outrages, the repayment of money stolen, and the fulfilment of the engagements which the Mexican Government has by treaty stipulated towards the bondholders.

The certainty that the wrongs and insults which we have so long endured at the hands of the Mexican people would at last provoke vigorous measures of retaliation has dawned upon Juarez and his colleagues just in time to induce an attempt to arrest the blow which was about to fall upon them. The change which has now taken place in Mexican counsels is, perhaps, the more satisfactory that it has been brought about only by the apprehension, and not by the fact, of military interference.

But the attempt to stave off our active interference and to separate us from our allies is in vain. We shall not accept the proffered satisfaction; and our fleet, with the fleets of France and Spain, will proceed to seize upon the ports and customs duties of Mexico. We shall not trust the faith of Mexicans, not even when they bring peace-offerings. The intervention in the affairs of the Republic will therefore pursue its course, and we shall make assurance doubly sure. We cannot afford to play fast and loose in a matter in which we have taken so certain a determination.

On this the Globe remarks:—

It is quite true that Sir Charles Wyke has induced the Mexican Government to conclude a convention conceding to us every one of the claims which we recently entered into a treaty with France and Spain to prosecute. It is quite possible that this concession may save some trouble, and therefore it is satisfactory. But we would not have too much importance attached to it. After all, it is only a promise upon paper, and of the value of such engagements on the part of Mexico we need not speak. It is almost unnecessary to say that this anticipatory step of the Mexican Government will in no wise affect the measures which the allies have taken for enforcing their respective rights; but if we can obtain what we demand without having recourse to physical force, so much the better. The intelligence just received by the Government, therefore, may be received with satisfaction, inasmuch as it gives some indication of this.

DESERTION OF BRITISH OFFICERS.—The extraordinary fact of the desertion of an English officer from his colours is noticed in the Gazette of last week, though the fact itself had been known for a considerable time past. Lieutenant Douall, of the Royal Artillery, one of the professors of Sandhurst, partly on account of embarrassed circumstances, and partly unable to resist the temptation of what he considered a better opening, has gone over to America without leave or notice, and now, it is said, holds the position of a Major in the Confederate Army. He is well known to be a man of some talent, and was the first of those gentlemen who joined the artillery without passing through the academy during the Russian War. Captain Currie, on the staff at Aldershot, who also suddenly left, is said to hold rank with the Federals.

SYMPATHY WITH THE POLK.—A numerously-attended meeting on the Polish question was held at the Whittington Club on Friday evening week. Able speeches were delivered by Mr. Harvey Lewis, M.P.; Mr. Coningham, M.P.; Mr. Elmond Beales, Mr. Slack, and other gentlemen. Resolutions were passed setting forth the gross injustice of which Poland is the victim, and calling upon the Government to suspend all payments on account of the Russo-Dutch Loan until Russia fulfils the engagements she incurred by the Treaty of Vienna. A petition founded upon these resolutions, but entering into the question at considerable length, was also adopted. The meeting displayed great enthusiasm on behalf of the Polish cause.

COLLISION AT SEA.—TEN LIVES LOST.—The Waterford Company's steamship Zephyr, arrived at Waterford, reports having been in collision, off Puffin Island, with a French steamer, Comtesse de Feigle Fregeville, from Nantes to Liverpool, in ballast, when the latter immediately sank. The captain, mate, and eight of the crew were lost. Six were saved. The Zephyr sustained no injury.

IRELAND.

ARCHBISHOP CULLEN.—A pastoral by Dr. Cullen was read in the Roman Catholic chapel in Ireland on Sunday, in which the Rev. Primate takes occasion to impress upon the people the evils of secret societies, drunkenness, and other vices; and urges them to pray for the blessings of peace to their native country; for, says he, "whatever misfortunes and sufferings we may undergo from famine or scarcity, we know nothing of the terrible ills which other nations endure from the scourge of war within their borders." We hail with delight the tone and temper of this pastoral, and hope Dr. Cullen will continue to inculcate such principles as he does in it, which are alike becoming his character as a clergyman, a man, and a patriot. It is certainly much more pleasing to find the ministers of the moral improvement than to stirring up feelings of bitterness and illwill among different sects of religionists; and, as we always enter our protest against the one course of conduct, so we now heartily add our applause of the other.

A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO DEFEAT THE ORDINANCE OFFICE IN IRELAND was brought to trial last week in Dublin. A clerk in the office appears to have systematically increased the charges of a contractor, sometimes by altering the figures, sometimes by interpolating items in his bill of work which were not originally charged, and which in fact had not been done. The contractor always drew for the higher and fraudulent amount. They were indicted for conspiracy, of which the clerk was convicted, but the contractor was found guilty of fraud only, and, further, recommended to mercy.

FIRING INTO A DWELLING.—The house of a respectable farmer, named Matthew Craig, residing at Rusky, has been fired into through the kitchen window, where Craig's wife and two children were sitting at the time, her husband being absent in Letterkenny. This is not the first outrage which has been perpetrated on this farmer, as some time previously he received a threatening notice, on account of his having taken a farm of which another tenant had been dispossessed. The shots did not injure any of the inmates of the house.

THE YOUNG INDEPENDENTS AND THE AMERICAN OUTRAGE.—The insult offered to the British flag is felt as keenly in Ireland as in any part of the kingdom. The whole country sympathises with the Government in its demand for reparation, and would be ready to prove its loyalty by any sacrifices in case of war, with the insignificant exception of the "Young Ireland Party." The Nation says the capture of the Commissioners on board a British steamer was an "act worthy of the spirit, daring, and dash of the Americans; it was one to make Irish hearts jump with joy." "The news," continues the same organ, "has created wild excitement and enthusiasm in Dublin, and it will awaken similar feelings and sensations throughout the whole country." If the English Government resent the insult, then, we are told, will come "a great time for Ireland. Then will the men who are gone with a vengeance prove vengeful men indeed. Then will the Irish race in America rush to arms and bound into the battle."

"Yes, then will the forces of England find in their front such desperate men as crushed their ranks at Fontenoy to the cry of 'Remember Limerick!' Yes, the men cowed before of their homes in Ireland; the men oppressed, insulted, scoffed at, and, wherever they went, pursued by English slander, scorn, and hate—those men will be in the van of the fight, and then will we come to England! And what of Ireland in this great time? What will Irishmen do when comes this supreme opportunity, the like of which can only come once in many ages? We can tell what they may do, what they will be able to do, if they act well their part as brave men—they can, most certainly, establish the independence of Ireland." We hope and believe that those who promulgate such sentiments as these, under such circumstances, are alike limited in number and insignificant in intellect or position.

THE ALLEGED FAMINE.—We should be loath to write one word likely to have the effect of drying up the streams of charity which, we are glad to know, always flow from the large and generous English heart whenever or wherever distress and suffering prevail; but it is really necessary that the feelings of the public should not be imposed upon, nor charity bestowed where it is not required. The Rev. Father Conway, P.P. of Headford, near Tuam, recently made a statement to the guardians of the district to the effect that people were absolutely without either food or fuel, and that great numbers must ere long perish of starvation if relief were not promptly administered. Now, such a statement, if true, it was not only becoming but the bounden duty of Mr. Conway to make, but he ought also to have told the whole truth—not only the present, or possible sufferings of the people, but what has been done to alleviate them. He has not adhered to this rule, and therefore his authority—which might have been of great value—is no longer to be relied upon. The following letter, written by the agent of the proprietor of the township and estate of Headford, to which Father Conway's statement specially referred, throws a different light on the matter:—"When Mr. Conway made his statement to the guardians, was he aware of what had been done by Mr. R. J. M. St. George and Mrs. St. George, of Tuam, and the kind friends of others connected with this place, to secure the inhabitants of the town of Headford and the tenantry on the estate from further suffering in this matter; and would it not have been but common justice to that gentleman, as also fair towards the guardians, to have made the latter acquainted with the fact that several days previous to the meeting of the board an abundant supply of fuel had been received in Headford for the use of every deserving applicant, irrespective of creed or party? As early as September last, and before the want of fuel was felt—but in anticipation of it—arrangements were made by an agent on the part of Mr. St. George for the purchase of a cargo of coal and its immediate conveyance to Headford. I am now happy to be in a position to state that no privation from such a want can at present exist in Headford, or among Mr. St. George's tenantry, a sufficient supply of coal being here, which is given to the very poor gratuitously; to those who can afford to pay something, under cost price. With reference to that part of Mr. Conway's statement that there were 'hundreds of persons in his district in such want as to require the guardians to supply carts to convey them to the workhouse at Tuam,' I can only say that I was greatly surprised at the account given by him of the state of affairs in this neighbourhood, of which I, for one, was completely ignorant; and I am glad to say that, on referring to the books of the relieving officer, it appears that from the 1st of last September (when whatever distress exists had its commencement) to the date of this letter there have been but eight applications made to him for relief in his entire district (which embraces nine electoral divisions), in extent far beyond that of which Mr. Conway speaks, only three of which applications were from the Headford property; and, on a further reference to the books, I find that these applications were less by three than those made to the relieving officer during the corresponding period of last year."

SCOTLAND.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN GLASGOW.—The following arrangements for preventing the unemployed in Glasgow from suffering from absolute want are now in full operation. Each person applies at the office of the parochial board of the parish in which he resides, his name and address are taken down, and his case is immediately investigated. The applicant returns, either at a later hour on the same day or early next day, and, if his representations are found to have been true, he is provided with work within doors, or gets an order for out-door work at one or other of the parks, the selection of work being made according to the trade or employment which the applicant had previously followed. The in-door workers are supplied with a certain amount of food and a certain amount of wages, the proportions varying in the different parishes, but in all cases equal to a shilling a day, with an extra allowance on Saturday to carry them over the Sunday. They go home every night. The out-door labourers receive 1s. per day; and if they have been at work all the week they will receive, if married 2s., on the Saturday, and if single 1s. 6d. Extra relief, in the shape of provisions, is given in the case of families unable to do anything for themselves.

KILLED VISITORS TO COMPIEGNE.—Not a little speculation was recently caused by the appearance at Compiègne of a number of gentlemen who invariably appeared in public in full Highland costume, who they were what was the nature of their position in the chateau, and so forth, having been the themes of much curiosity among the French journalists, and even those of London seemed puzzled to account for these latest invaders of France, for the notices copied from the Paris papers regarding them were preceded or followed by such queries as these: "Were they pipers? or Highland gillies newly attached to the Imperial household? or the nucleus of another Scottish Brigade such as that to which Quentin Durward belonged?" But in truth the whole matter was very simple. The killed visitors were no other than the Duke of Atholl; his son, the Marquis of Tullibardine; his brother, Lord James Murray, and the Earl of Dunmore, who, with their attendants, were spending a few days, by special invitation, with the Emperor and Empress in acknowledgment of attentions shown to the latter during her visit to Scotland last year. The party in question returned to this country last week, having received the utmost possible kindness during their brief sojourn with the Imperial family of France.

BREACH OF PROMISE EXTRAORDINARY.—A breach of promise case, which involved some points of humour, was tried in the Court of Exchequer on Monday. A widow of forty was courted by an old man who went on crutches, though, with commendable gallantry, he only used one stick when he went a courting. There was no denying the promise, nor his receding from it; and, after both parties had sufficiently exposed their folly, the counsel for the defendant offered £150, which the widow's friends cheerfully accepted.

THE PROVINCES.

THE UNEMPLOYED OF BLACKBURN.—From a return issued on Saturday by the chief constable of Blackburn it appears that there are 78 cotton mills and manufactories in the town. Of this number seven are entirely closed, 24 are working full time, and the remainder are in operation from 10 to 55 hours per week. In the 78 manufactories there are no fewer than 893,776 spindles, of which 750,076 are running, while 143,700 are standing. In addition to this large number of spindles, the manufactories contain 27,539 looms, of which 24,181 are in operation, and the remainder, 3358, are standing. The 71 mills in full and partial operation employ 18,331 workpeople, while there are 2762 operatives unemployed. Besides these, there is also a large number of artisans of all classes out of work; hence the distress prevailing in the town is much greater than had been anticipated. There has, as a matter of course, been a large and increasing demand upon the funds of the union, and the number receiving parochial aid and labour exceeds by 500 that of the corresponding week of last year. This return applies to Blackburn alone, and does not include the populous manufacturing townships of Livesey, Wotton, &c.

ANOTHER TRADE OUTRAGE AT SHEFFIELD.—It appears that early on Sunday morning a man named John Bollington, engine-tender at the works of Mr. Henry Holdsworth, criminal-mechanic, New George-street, Sheffield-moor, went to his master's premises for the purpose of inspecting the machinery. Very shortly after entering the works he found that an attempt had been made to blow up the place during the night. On going into a room which is let off to a factor named Pattison, he found the window shattered to pieces, the hearthstone broken, the joists of the floor heaved out of their places, and one or two of them broken. He went into the machine-room, and there found that the joists of the floor had been lifted up and the framework of the floor forced out. It was evident that the explosion had proceeded from the lower story, and on proceeding there Bollington found his surmise confirmed. The usual means of detection adopted in these cases was found, and sufficiently marked the nature and origin of the outrage. In the cellar he found the shattered remains of a large milk-can, capable of holding several pounds of powder, which had been thrown in through the grating. In the broken lid of the can there was a small hole, in which the fuse had been placed. It is remarkable that the damage done was not more extensive, but the building, as it is, is seriously injured. The police are making an investigation with the view of detecting the perpetrator of this diabolical crime.

REMARKABLE ESCAPE.—On Saturday afternoon a youth named Weymouth Hart, son of Mr. Stephen Hart, of Tillingham, was with his brothers engaged in splitting the butt end of a tree which had just been severed from the stock, by blasting it with gunpowder, about four ounces of which were closely plugged into an orifice; touchpaper was lighted, and the parties retired behind a haystack, when, some time having elapsed before the explosion took place, Weymouth, judging that the paper had gone out, approached with the intention of relighting it. After striking two or three lucifers without result, he was leaning over it, when the powder suddenly exploded, rending and shivering the butt to atoms. The plug struck Weymouth's hat, which was forced to a great height in the air. One of the larger fragments struck him across the breast and drove him a considerable distance, and he fell over the trunk of the tree, when some of the smaller portions struck him in the face, the blood flowing copiously. Most strange to say, his injuries were comparatively trifling.

THE PRESTON COTTON-SPINNERS AND THE PROPOSED STRIKE.—At a meeting of the Preston operatives last week, held in reference to a proposed strike to resist a reduction of wages, the following resolution was adopted, though not unanimously:—"That this meeting of the operative cotton-spinners of Preston is of opinion that, under the existing circumstances of the cotton trade, it is not desirable to resist the reduction of wages at present proposed by the employers; not because they are unable to do so, neither do they acknowledge its justice or necessity, but because they are actuated by far higher considerations of humanity to the other branches of factory-workers, who would be in that case thrown out of employment, and from a regard to the well-being generally of the town of Preston."

THE ORWELL OYSTER FISHERY.—The Ipswich Town Council has been devoting attention to the production of oysters in the Orwell, having expended £225 for that object. The Orwell is believed to be highly suited for the development of a fishery, and, having been well cleaned, is now much better adapted for receiving the spat. Last year oysters to the amount of £1800 were raised, but damage was done to the beds by too early dredging. Further operations are contemplated, so as to form a bed for small oysters.

RAILWAY COLLISION.—A serious collision occurred on the London and North-Western line on Saturday, between Rugby and Weedon. It appears that two trains, one laden with cattle and one an ordinary goods-train, were started from Rugby on their way to town about one o'clock on Saturday morning. The luggage-train drove faster than the cattle-train, and, of course, overtook it, dashing into the trucks laden with live cattle and killing several of them. The goods-train also suffered considerably, and large quantities of valuable property were strewn all over the line, and with the broken waggons, completely choked up the road. Fortunately, the engine-drivers and others connected with the management of the trains escaped.

TURNING IT TO ACCOUNT.—A short time ago, in Lancashire, a man well known in the country for his shrewdness in "business"—a virtue which sometimes tends very closely upon a breach of the eighth commandment—happened to be travelling in a train, accompanied by his wife, when a collision happened. His wife received a severe contusion between the eyes, for which the jury awarded fifty pounds damages. Some time after the affair had blown over, the following confession, or something to the like effect, was elicited from the plaintiff in a moment of unguarded conviviality:—"Well, ye see, when 't'collision happened, 't' old woman and I wur all reet; but when I looked out o' 't' carriage I saw a lot o' fellies in a terrible state. One sings out, 'Ey, lad, I've gotten my head cut open; I'll be twenty pounds for this.' 'Twenty pound, ye darned fule!' cries another, 'I've gotten my shoulder out, and I'll be forty pound for 't.' When I heard this," continued the clever "business" man, "I jumped at 't' old woman straight out and drew my head right between her eyes—and we've gotten fifty pounds for 't'!"

THE LATE OUTRAGE AT SHEFFIELD.—Sarah O'Rourke, one of the women injured in the recent outrage in Sheffield, has died. Mrs. Westridge, though not out of danger, is expected to recover. The man Thompson, who has been apprehended on the charge of committing the atrocious outrage, has been identified by Mrs. Westridge, who saw him and another man running away after the canister of gunpowder was thrown, and who had a previous acquaintance with him. He had a few days before used threatening expressions to her.

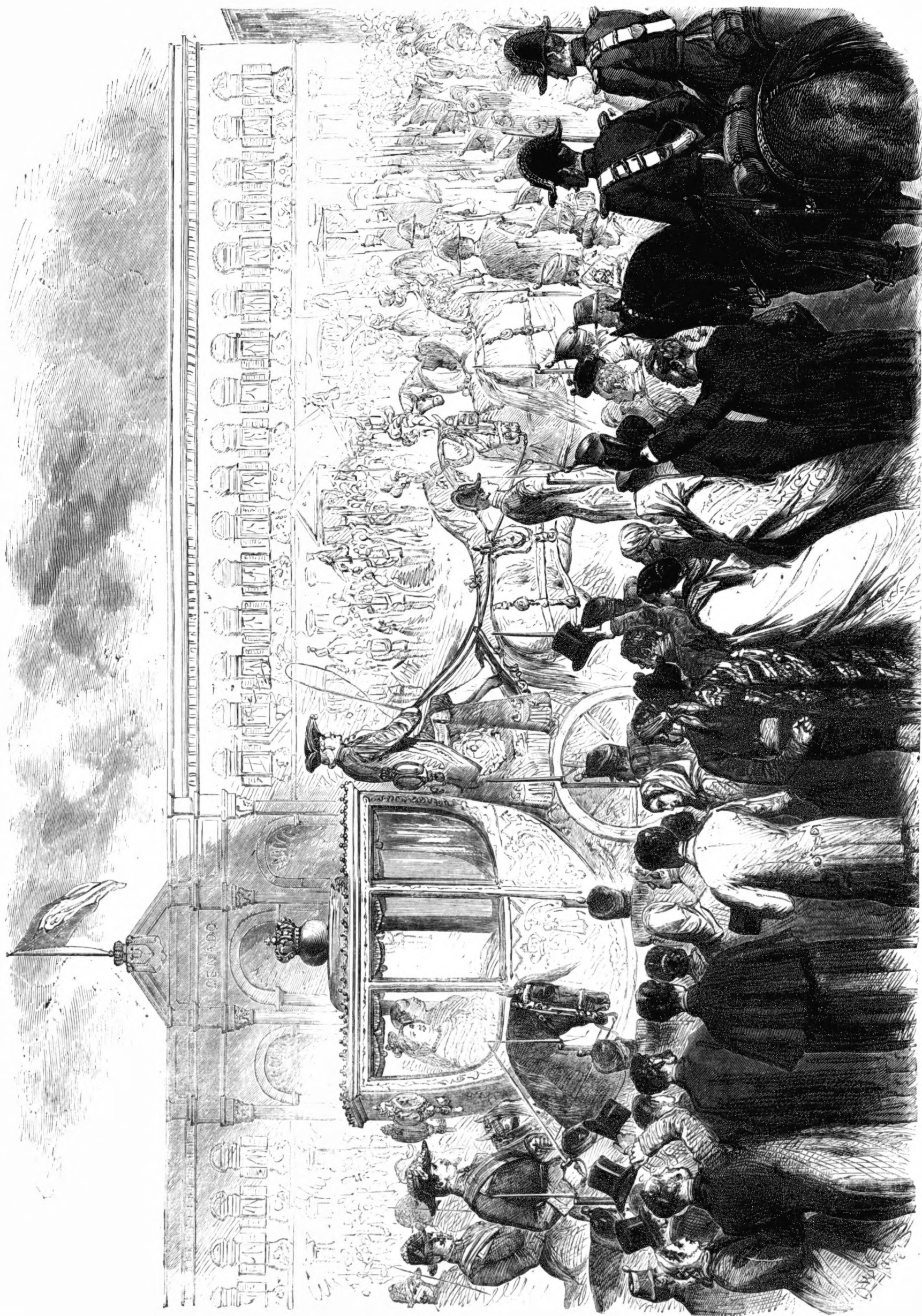
ADULTERATION OF FOOD.—In spite of the efforts of the Legislature the disgraceful system of adulterating food still continues. The Lancet contains a report on the adulteration of pickles and preserves, to the effect that of thirty-three samples of different kinds of preserved fruits and vegetables twenty-one contained a preparation of copper, a poisonous mineral, but which was used in order to give the pickles a more brilliant green than they would have in their natural state. We hope the provisions of the new law on this subject will be put in force against the manufacturers.

FEDERAL "INFORMERS" IN ENGLAND.—It is stated that a system of active inquiry and prompt reporting home has been in existence about four months, and that active agents were stationed at every one of the ports, with a view to learn the destination and cargo of every vessel leaving the port; and, where there was anything that was considered suspicious, a report was immediately forwarded to the headquarters in London, and at once sent to the United States' Government. It is further said that the principal agent in the affair in this country appears to have been a person said to be connected with the foreign detective police; that all the reports that were sent to the United States' Government were signed in his name; and that Mr. Adams objected to the course pursued, saying it was no part of his duty to perform such services, and that the arrangements connected with these proceedings were carried out through the instrumentality of a Minister of the United States at a foreign Court.

OPENING OF THE CORTES BY THE QUEEN OF SPAIN.

SPAIN seems at present to be regaining a position in Europe to which she has long been a stranger, and it is perhaps attributable to the success obtained in Morocco as much as to the promises of a more liberal policy which have been more than once offered by the Government. The public expectation of what would transpire after the opening of the Cortes was certainly heightened by the announcement that the Queen's speech would contain the expression of very extended reforms in the Constitution, and the Session of 1861 was opened with the usual pomp, not destitute of some sort of hopeful interest on the part of the people.

There have been long accounts of the ceremony of the opening of the Cortes in the Madrid journals, and it would appear that there were never so many senators and deputies present as on this occasion, while the acclamations which greeted their Majesties were enthusiastic and unanimous. Beside a brilliant company of the representatives of various European nations, the Moorish Ambassador, Prince Muley Abbas, was present, and had a place assigned to him with Don Sebastian and Don Francisco.



THE QUEEN OF SPAIN PROCEEDING TO OPEN THE CORTES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. G. PIZARRO.)

THE VALLEY OF THE DART.



THE VALLEY OF DAPPES.

COULD the original circumstances which have led to long wars and great political convulsions be discovered or accurately recorded, it would be seen, indeed, how little fire is sufficient to set half the world ablaze. The most insignificant momentum sets a huge body in motion when that body is poised ready to start; and, when people have been waiting for a cause of war, the sneer of a Minister, the ambiguous retort of a Sovereign, the whim of a favourite even, have been found sufficient excuse. It sometimes happens, however, that nobody recognises the position, and that many "brave words" may be wasted without producing much sensation amongst the people whom they were intended to influence. A case of this kind has recently occurred in the occupation of the Valley of Dappes by the French, and the language used by Switzerland was sufficiently loud and imperative to have called the nations to war in her defence if a war had been wanting. As it is, however, there seems happily very little disposition to fight in a quarrel which has been originated by so small a violation of national rights.

The Valley of Dappes is a little dreary place, with a small village in the midst of it, called Cressonière, situated on the southern slope of the Jura Mountains, on the Swiss side of Le Rousses; a place which is of little importance as a national possession, which would not readily find a purchaser at even such a sum as a thousand pounds, and which it would appear has been claimed by both Governments through no end of concessions and treaties. The first part of the business is the official confirmation of a previous report of the occupation of the Valley des Dappes by the French. Then the Federal Council held an extraordinary sitting, in which reports were read from the Council of State of the Canton de Vaud, from the Prefect of Nyon, and from the Commander of the Gendarmerie of St. Gargues, which announced positively that on the 25th of October a detachment of soldiers and gendarmes penetrated the Valley des Dappes, on the pretext of preventing the arrest of an individual. The Federal Council ordered President de Migy, of Berne, the Vice-President of the Canton de Vaud, and Colonel Veillon, to proceed forthwith to the spot to investigate the matter. The result was that the Federal Council decided that the events which occurred in the Valley des Dappes should be officially notified to the Governments of all the cantons by a circular, and that a complaint should be addressed to the French Government on the subject.

The French were instant and eager in their denial of aggression, on the ground that they had right to the territory in consequence of the final act of the Treaty of Vienna, which was a few years since a subject of fruitless negotiations between the two Governments. They, however, admit the truth of part of the statement of the Swiss authorities. The *Constitutionnel* says:—"In the centre of that valley, which has no territorial importance, but which intercepts the communications between Fort des Rousses and the district of Gex, there is the little village of Cressonière. An individual sentenced by the Court of Nyon to a punishment sought refuge in that village, and the Vandois authorities ordered him to be arrested there; but the French gendarmerie had occupied Cressonière, and prevented the Vandois police from doing so. It is incorrect that the Valley des Dappes has been occupied by our troops," while the *Patrie* declares that "different foreign journals have published false statements respecting the occupation of the Valley des Dappes, since for nearly forty-five years France has never ceased to claim that territory, which belongs to her in the most incontestable manner, while an offer has now been made to Switzerland for negotiations for an arrangement which would give every possible guarantee to the Swiss Confederation as regards its neutrality."

This, then, is the pretty dispute about the Valley of Dappes, which, had it not been that Europe is in no frenzied mood for war, might have devastated provinces of a thousand times more importance than the miserable little territory, an engraving of which we present to our readers.

BRITISH FORCES ON THE NORTH AMERICAN AND WEST INDIA STATION.—It appears that the actual force now under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Alexander Milne, K.C.B., on the North American and West India station, consists of twenty-six ships, carrying 606 guns and 6192 men, the total horse-power being 8290, and the tonnage being 37,549 tons. Besides these there are five receiving hulks and ships, four convict-ships, a harbour and a river vessel. There are on passage six ships, bearing 331 guns, and having 2317 men, the tonnage being 15,533, and the horse-power 3459.

THE UNITED STATES' NAVY.—The statistics of the United States' Navy show ten ships-of-the-line, the youngest of which was built in 1810. Four were still on the stocks, four were at Norfolk when that port was abandoned. There are ten sailing frigates of 50 guns, two were built in 1797; not one is of 1800 British tonnage; the youngest were built in 1855. There are twenty sloops of from 21 to 16 guns; the youngest was built in 1834. They are too small for their armament. The steam navy is the kernel of the naval force of the Federal Government. It consists of five screw frigates built, and one building. These are the Niagara and Minnesota school. There are six first-class steam sloops. Of these the crack ship is the Brooklyn, 25 guns, and to this class belongs the San Jacinto, 13 guns. There are three middle-class steam sloops, the Potomac, 11 guns, represents the class; and eight second-class screw steam sloops; and one paddle-wheel, all except the last, built since 1855; they carry from 6 to 3 guns. The third class consists of four in number, carry more guns—one 8, the others 5. There are four paddle-steamers, two of 3 guns and two of 1 gun. Three steam-tenders make up the Navy, consisting on paper of a total of ten line-of-battle ships, ten frigates, twenty sloops, three brigs, and three troop-ships—all these are sailing; of six screw frigates, of eighteen screw, and eight paddle-wheel sloops, and of three steam-tenders. The Federal Government has increased the list by 100 merchant-ships fitted out to maintain the blockade.

THE ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE.—Since the receipt of the news of the violation of the mail-steamers Trent by the members of the Royal Naval Reserve have acted in a way which does them infinite credit, and shows that the old spirit of the British seaman is vigorous now as ever. At almost every station on the coast the men have met and sent in letters to their commanders, intimating that they are perfectly ready to serve their country and vindicate her honour whenever or wherever their services may be required. It is needless to say that so patriotic and gallant an offer has been met in a like spirit, and that the men have been cordially thanked for their spontaneous offer of service, with the intimation that if necessary the authorities will gladly avail themselves of the aid of so valuable a body of men. We have now a real Naval Reserve. Although only 7000 are provided for in the Estimates, up to last Saturday there were not less than 8000 able seamen who had accepted the conditions, and, as they are now coming in at the rate of not less than 200 a week, it is almost certain that before the financial year is out between 11,000 and 12,000 men will be borne on the books of the Reserve List. Of the 8000 already enrolled, not less than 50 hold certificates of competency as masters, 140 certificates of competency as mates, and 1050 are petty officers in the merchant service. Of the whole number 6000 have passed their gunnery drill, only 850 are on leave for long voyages, 2000 have got leave for short voyages to home stations, and 5000 are engaged in the coasting trade at home, and could be assembled in a week.

ACTIVITY AT THE DOCKYARDS.—An Admiralty order was on Wednesday received by Commodore Superintendent Sir F. W. E. Nicolson directing that the whole of the artificers and labourers employed at the steam-factory department, who have recently been restricted to three-quarter time, shall resume working full-day time as formerly. Forty additional shipwrights and labourers were this day set on at the dockyard, and the number is to be increased to one hundred during the present week. A return has been presented to the Admiralty of the number of steam-vessels available for immediate service, and the Division (6) is to be immediately commissioned for the North American waters. The *Venustus*, just rebuilt at Deptford, is also to be got ready for commission. The Melbourne, hired steam-vessel, shipped an immense amount of munitions of war at the Royal Arsenal, and will complete her cargo with Armstrong guns, small arms, &c., for Canada. Captain Vesey's battery of the 14th brigade Royal Artillery will immediately embark on board the Melbourne for Quebec. The workmen at the Armstrong gun factory, and at other departments of the Arsenal, are now employed by night as well as day. Similar measures have been adopted at Chatham, Portsmouth, and other places.

GENERAL McCLELLAN'S STAFF.—The following list of General McClellan's Staff has been published:—Major, Brigadier-General and Inspector-General; Staffman, General-in-Command of the Cavalry; Van Vliet, Quartermaster-General; Seth Williams, Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel Colburn, Adjutant to the Adjutant-General; Lieutenant-Colonel Hudson, Inspector-General; and Captain Louis Philippe d'Orleans, Count of Paris, and Captain Robert d'Orleans, Duke of Chartres, Aides-de-Camp."

THE OUTRAGE ON THE TRENT.

THE outrage perpetrated on the mail-steamers Trent by the American sloop-of-war San Jacinto has made a deep impression on the public mind, and, though no clamorous demonstrations have been made, if we except the so-called "indignation" meeting at Liverpool, noticed in our last Number, the feeling of wounded honour is not the less profound that men have waited to be quite sure that they are in the right before giving expression to it. The step taken by the Government was to submit the question to the law officers of the Crown, and these gentlemen, as it is understood, having given an opinion that the conduct of Captain Wilks was a violation of international law, a Cabinet Council was held on Friday, the 29th ult., to consider what form the demand for reparation should take, and it is believed that Earl Russell was then directed to prepare a despatch instructing Lord Lyons to apply to the Washington Cabinet on the subject. Another Cabinet Council was held on Saturday to revise and approve the despatch, and on Sunday a Queen's messenger was dispatched to Queenstown to take the outward steamer; and in a few days after this sheet is in the hands of our readers the views of the British Government on this transaction will be before the Cabinet of President Lincoln in Washington. The exact terms of the despatch to Lord Lyons are not, of course, known; but it is generally believed that they are as calmly yet firmly expressed as the action of the Government has been prompt.

It is said that the Government instructions to Lord Lyons are:—1. That he shall insist upon it that the conduct of Captain Wilks was illegal; 2. That an ample apology shall be rendered for the outrage; 3. That the persons taken out of the Trent shall be forthwith delivered up to England; and, 4. That sufficient assurances shall be given that such a proceeding shall not again occur. These may not be the exact terms to be submitted to the Washington Cabinet; but the general impression is that the British Government have determined to insist upon conditions substantially to the effect above indicated.

As the details of the transaction on board the Trent are deeply interesting, we reprint from the *Independence Belge* the following narrative of the occurrence supplied by a correspondent of that journal who happened to be on board at the time:—

At Sea, on board the Trent, Royal Mail Steam-ship.

Sir,—I have just witnessed an act which will occasion a great sensation in Europe—one which I hasten to write you an account of on board the same ship which has been the theatre of it.

I sailed from Havannah on the 7th of November on board the Trent, a steamer of the Royal English Company, proceeding to St. Thomas. There were on board the same vessel the following passengers for Europe:—Mr. Slidell, Minister of the South American States to the Court of France, who was accompanied by his wife, son, and three daughters; Mr. Eustis, Secretary of Legation; and Mr. Mason, Minister of the same States to the Court of England, accompanied by Mr. McFarland, Secretary of Legation.

About two o'clock p.m. of the following day, being Friday, Nov. 8, we encountered a vessel of war of the North American States. This vessel hoisted its flag, and fired one of its cannon in our direction. When we were within the distance of a pistol-shot it fired a second shot towards our bow.

The Trent hoisted her flag and stopped. A boat immediately left the American vessel, conveying towards us an officer, who declared to the English captain and to the agent of the British Admiralty that he was informed by his commander there were on board the Trent as passengers Mr. Slidell and Mr. Mason, Mr. Eustis and Mr. McFarland, and that he came to take them, dead or alive.

The English captain and agent protested, and declared that they would not submit to this outrage. The officer then left the vessel, but returned immediately, accompanied by two boats full of armed soldiers, who followed him on board the Trent. They carried muskets, swords, and revolvers, which they displayed on their officer uttering a new and more pressing summons. Messrs. Slidell, Mason, Eustis, and McFarland then presented themselves, joining their protests to those of the English captain and the agent of the Admiralty. Mme. Slidell, her daughters, and Mme. Eustis surrounded these gentlemen, and protested with their tears against this outrage. The American officer continued deaf to their remonstrances, and renewed his order, saying to his men, "Dead or alive!"

Messrs. Slidell, Mason, Eustis, and McFarland surrendered themselves, and descended into the boats under the bayonets of their former captives, and were immediately conveyed on board the American vessel, which we afterwards learned was the San Jacinto.

A moment after the departure and capture of these gentlemen and the transport of their baggage the American officer, who had remained on board with some of his soldiers, summoned the English captain to go on board the American ship. The latter refused. The officer transmitted this refusal to his chief. Then, after having threatened the English captain to take him by force on board, he finished by abandoning this pretension, and withdrew with his men. Mme. Slidell and Mme. Eustis remained on board the Trent, and pursued with us their voyage to Europe.

Such are the grave facts of which the Trent has just been the theatre. On board an English ship, carrying a Royal English flag, commanded by an officer of the Royal English Marine, and in contempt of the protests of a special agent of the British Admiralty, four passengers have been taken away by main force and made prisoners by an American vessel of war.

A Paris paper of Tuesday has the following in reference to this affair:—

"We learn from recent advices by sea that the steam-ship San Jacinto had already, early in November, searched the French vessel Jules-et-Marie, and two other foreign vessels. The first of those vessels was a Danish trader called the Jutland; she was on her way from the Havannah to Santa Cruz; the other was a Portuguese vessel. These facts have some importance, because they prove that the Cabinet at Washington fancies it has the power to exercise the right of search to its full extent."

The United States' Consul at Paris has communicated to the French papers a letter of General Scott, in which he declares there is no truth in the report that the Cabinet of Washington had ordered the seizure of the Southern Commissioners, even if under the protection of a neutral flag. He is quite ignorant of the decision of his Government, but he says it is necessary to preserve good relations between America and England. "I hope," continues General Scott, "that Earl Russell and Mr. Seward will agree on a solution to the question whether the persons who were arrested on board the Trent were contraband of war or not. If they were agents of the rebels it will be difficult to convince even impartial minds that they were less contraband of war than rebel soldiers or cannons." General Scott expresses his conviction that a war between America and England cannot take place without more serious provocations than those at present given. General Scott adds—"If the Southern Confederacy, by its recognition by one of the Great Powers should enjoy public rights as a nation, the other States would have to consider what attitude such an important modification would impose upon them, and the Cabinet of Washington would bear the responsibility of a resolution which the necessities of commerce and political influence would impose upon Europe."

HOW THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED IN AMERICA.

The San Jacinto, with her prisoners on board, arrived at Fortress Monroe on the 15th, and a New York paper of the 16th gives the following account of the affair:—

Fortress Monroe, Nov. 15. The United States' steam-ship San Jacinto, Captain Wilks, arrived in the roadstead at half-past twelve p.m., having on board the rebel Commissioners Slidell and Mason. They were taken from the English mail-steamers on the 8th inst., off Bermuda. Lieutenant Fairfax and thirty-five armed men went from the San Jacinto with five officers, who boarded the steamer and picked out the Commissioners. Messrs. Slidell and Mason made feeble resistance, but were induced to leave with Lieutenant Fairfax. The captain of the steamer ran away and swore, called the United States' officers "piratical Yankees" and other abusive names. One of the secretaries of the rebel Commissioners, named Hurst or Hurstace, also showed resistance; but himself and colleague accompanied their employers to confinement. Mr. Slidell had his wife and four children on board, who were allowed to proceed to Europe. Commodore Wilks came ashore and had a lengthy conversation with General Wool. He expressed his opinion that he had done right, and said that, right or wrong, these men had to be secured, and if he had done wrong he could be no more than cashiered for it. When it became known that these two worthies were in Hampton Roads the excitement was immense.

Of course a great deal of excitement was occasioned by the occurrence, and much exultation was indulged in over "this daring and dashing exploit," as some of the New York papers describe Captain Wilks's conduct. Various rumours were afloat: ovations and promotion were immediately to be conferred upon Captain Wilks and Lieutenant Fairfax—Lord Lyons was stated to have expressed an opinion that the prisoners would be given up, while President Lincoln was reported to have said that he would not do so, even if war with Great Britain were the alternative. Whether or not the Captain of the San Jacinto had had instructions to take the step he did, or if he merely acted on his own responsibility, was uncertain; but it does not seem at all improbable that instructions of some sort were delivered to him at Havannah, where the ship coaled some time before the transaction occurred, though he may have exceeded those instructions. It is also, of course, open to the Cabinet of Washington to disavow Captain Wilks's conduct, even though directions had been given which he might conceive amply warranted his taking the measures he did.

A good idea of the state of feeling on the subject, and of the discussion in the American papers to which this affair has given rise, will be obtained from the following extracts from a letter of the special correspondent of the *Times*:—

"Of Mr. Mason and Mr. Slidell and of their mission enough has been said already. They are now in Fort Warren, and the whole country rings with joy at the news that enemies so skilful, so energetic, so accomplished, should by this unexpected stroke of daring be placed in the power of the United States when it seemed that their mission must inevitably have prospered. But they have ceased to be 'rebels.' Their forms expand in their dungeon. Instead of being the disloyal citizens of the rebellious provinces of the United States, which they were when they entered the British packet, they are the recognised 'ambassadors of a belligerent and independent nationality.' For thus is the violence avenged, and thus, at the very moment of its commission, are the authors of the outrage hoisted by their own petard. Joy at the news, then, astonishment, then a general inquiry, 'What will England say?' Then a few more began to think and count the cost of Slidell and Mason. Some said, 'It's all right; we'll make an apology, but we can't give up the prisoners.' Others wondered what Lord Lyons would do or Mr. Seward would say. Others abused England in anticipation as a safe measure under all circumstances; a few threatened terrible things—like a writer, an officer of the Congress, who this morning invites all the monarchs of Europe generally to come on if they like and join the South, in the Jefferson-Brick style. The streets buzzed with the talk, and the hotels roared with it, and the barrooms were full of it. Among the crowd all was delight and excitement. But the Cabinet Council which was held immediately was not so radiant. Visits were exchanged among the foreign Ministers; they all called on Lord Lyons. The domestic Ministers, the French Princes, the Generals, were also greatly moved, and some there were who did not conceal their dread of the consequences of an act so violent and so strange. There was a question continually arising, 'What will the people say in England? How will they take this, I wonder?' But Sunday intervened, and time was given to the Government to take up a definite line, and to suggest to their organs some form of vindication. The consequence was that all the papers began to speak of it as the most natural and ordinary thing in the world to board a mail-steamers and take 'Ambassadors' out of her. Then Slidell and Mason became once 'Ambassadors' of a 'belligerent Power' on board a neutral vessel; or, sometimes, curiously enough, they were made 'contraband of war.' Wheaton was consulted; there was a great rush after Vattel and our old friends Puffendorf and Grotius; but these honest gentlemen could not throw much light on the matter, as an act of that sort never entered into their heads. De Hauteville and Wheaton were in men's mouths and hands, and a very extraordinary farrago of law and nonsense was the result, as may be seen by looking into most of the American papers which refer to the matter. The base of the argument in justification is to be found in an article of the *National Intelligencer* of Monday, and that article is founded on a misconception of certain passages in Wheaton and ignorance or suppression of others. But there is this singular result from the reasoning—that, if it is good for anything, the United States acknowledges the belligerent character of the Confederate States, and has formally declared that Messrs. Slidell and Mason are ambassadors. 'Rebels' out of the jurisdiction of the State against which they revolted are but political offenders, entitled to the protection of the neutral flag under which they sail as fully and indisputably as they are entitled to the protection of the laws and of the flag of England or of the United States in one of their streets."

"There is but one opinion among the representatives of the foreign Powers in reference to this 'outrage.' Such is the mildest term used respecting it. France, Prussia, Russia, Spain, all are agreed in considering that the blow struck at England is not the accident of a *contemps*; and the United States, if there was wisdom in her counsels, would really feel some doubts in reference to the policy she has adopted when she sees as she has done before, that there is no friend left to her in the world."

"I have reason to think that the Trent is not the last English vessel that may be stopped and visited by the American men-of-war in those waters. A trade in arms and munitions of war, and in military supplies of various kinds, between British subjects and the Confederates, has been going on for some time, in violation of her Majesty's proclamation of neutrality, and in spite of the vigilance of the United States' cruisers. The Government, in order to prevent this in future, is fitting up steam-vessels in the port of New York, which are to be dispatched on the special service of breaking up this trade. The young officers who are to have the command of these vessels have been authorised to exercise great latitude in the execution of their instructions, and have received assurances in advance of the support of the Government."

THE PRESS ON THE AMERICAN OUTRAGE.

OPINIONS OF BRITISH NEWSPAPERS.

At the present stage of the affair we have nothing to do with any other point than this—was the First Lieutenant of the San Jacinto justified in taking upon himself the duties of an Admiralty Judge on board a British ship on the high seas? It is vain to tell us what might have happened if the Trent had been carried into port. It is impertinent to attempt to divert the discussion to questions as to whether diplomatic envoys passing to neutral ports are contraband of war, or to waste learning upon the point of how far a mail-steamers can be held responsible for the contents of her mail-bags or a passenger-steamer for the character of her passengers. None of these questions have arisen or can arise during this controversy. The opportunity for discussing them has been forcibly suppressed by the violent acts of four boats' crews of American seamen. The law of nations has pointed out a course of action by which all these difficult points might have been mooted and decided. An American officer has, however, set at naught the law of nations, and has substituted his own prompt decision for that of the Prize Judge. Where are we now to fight out these questions of fact and law? Are they to be decided by the English and American press? Are they to be argued and settled by diplomatic notes? A Yankee subordinate officer has already given judgment and effected execution by his own will and with his own sword. Fools may prate in such a matter of the seizure of this vessel being only wrong in form but right in substance. This is one of those very numerous cases in which the whole substance exists in the form. Is a constable to hang a man up to a tree because he and his neighbours believe him to be guilty, and are we to be told that the trial would have been a mere useless form, for that the evidence was so strong that the result would have been the same? If this be so, then Lynch

law is the best rule of right, and England must submit to see it established against her all over the world. Even, however, when the laws of civilisation are set at naught, and the summary law of force is brought into action, some sort of trial is generally adopted, some accusation is made, and some opportunity for defence is allowed. These cutlass and pistol-bearing Judges of the American Admiralty, however, make no accusation, ask for no explanation, but issue their decrees at once under the British flag, and carry off their condemned without even deigning to state their crime.—*Times*.

Either war exists in the United States between the North and the South, or it does not. If war does not exist, there is no right of search and no right of blockade. All the British ships which have been captured for breach of the blockade must be restored, and the San Jacinto in exercising the right of search exercised a right which had no existence. If war does not exist—that is, if the North refuse to acknowledge belligerent rights—let them say so, and henceforth no American cruiser will be allowed to search any English merchantman. Messrs. Slidell and Mason must be restored, because taken by the exercise of a non-existent right, and the blockade of the Southern ports must be raised. But if there is war, then the Southerners are enemies, and must be treated as such on board English ships. No English jurist or diplomatist has ever maintained that an enemy can be taken on board a neutral ship, and therefore no English practice can justify the Captain of the San Jacinto in what he has done. If the Federal Government persist in regarding the Southerners as subjects, there is no enemy and no war. If the Federal Government are willing to regard the Southerners as public enemies, they are not liable to be seized as persons who owe allegiance to the Federal Government.—*Daily News*.

Nations seldom go to war of deliberate intent, especially when they have already on their hands a struggle so onerous as that in which the North is now engaged with the South. A war of ideas or of policy, like that into which France entered on behalf of Italy, may be calmly determined upon in the solitary councils of an autocrat, though even Louis Napoleon is generally believed to have had personal reasons for the enterprise so strong as scarcely to leave his judgment its usual freedom of choice. But it almost invariably happens that war on a large scale is commenced under the impulse of passion, or is drifted into by the unwatched current of events. It will be Christmas, we are told, before the reply of the American Government to Lord Russell's despatch can be received. It will not be half that time before the question is virtually decided. The mail that carries out the Queen's messenger will carry out also the newspapers, the message of the English to the American people. It is the leading articles in our leading journals—the assumed expression of public feeling in this country—that will tell most powerfully on the action of the Cabinet at Washington. Not, of course, directly, but by calming or inflaming the popular mind in the great towns of the North. Let us do nothing to exacerbate spirits that have been sufficiently galled by fortune. Let us avoid, as under a solemn sense of duty and honour, so much as an allusion that may irritate overwrought sensibilities. It is never the part of courage to boast of strength—least of all when such boasts are like bullets in the face to a man with one hand tied or wounded. Americans can hardly play the bully when engaged in fighting for their national existence. It is a greater and older people who will be chargeable with that odious character if they insist on submission or conflict at such a moment. Our honour is not so sickly that it must have instant satisfaction. We can well afford to wait till our opponent is on more equal terms with ourselves before we strike and bid him draw.—*Star and Dial*.

The time has now passed away for legal argumentation, which has been exhausted by the subtlety of the press, and which for practical purposes has been brought to a close by the unanimous opinion of the law officers of the Crown. That we had suffered a gross national affront, in the manner in which the act of Captain Wilks was perpetrated, was patent even before the piratical nature of the act had been legally established; and it would, apart from its illegality, have been incompatible with the maintenance of the friendly relations which before existed with the Federal Government of America. We are reluctantly constrained therefore to see, in this matter, an act as unfriendly in spirit as it is piratical in law.

The British Government has a plain duty to discharge, and to that duty it has addressed itself with a firm and manly spirit. No doubt the Commissioners of the Confederate States to France and England, who were also the ex-Ministers of the late President, are regarded as a great prize; and it is possible that the Lincoln Government looks upon their offences in a different light from those of the officers in the Confederate army whom it has taken prisoners, and to whom it has extended the rights of war. We trust, above all things, that the Federal Government will not have committed themselves to a course so deplorable as one which would place it out of their power to satisfy our demands for the restoration of these gentlemen safe and sound. But, apart from this contingency, the demand which Lord Lyons will make to the Washington Cabinet will be plain and brief, and they will hold the issue in their own hands.—*Morning Post*.

It has been decided, after due deliberation, by the law officers of the Crown that the outrage on the Trent is a violation of international law and an insult to the British flag. A Cabinet Council has determined what form the demand for reparation should take; and we believe that her Majesty's advisers will be satisfied with nothing less than a restitution of the gentlemen forcibly carried off by the officer of the San Jacinto and an ample apology for the insult offered to our flag. In the prosecution of this demand the Ministry will have the unanimous support of the nation. God grant the authorities at Washington may recognise the wrong their agents have done us, and not force us to the *ultima ratio*—the arbitrement of the sword.—*Standard*.

The best way to put the question of law is this:—If the Commissioners are asserted to have been liable to seizure as what is technically termed contraband, then the Trent itself had committed a breach of neutrality, and might have been condemned as lawful prize by a competent tribunal. The only case known to international law in which the conveyance of persons can thus affect the character of the carrying vessel is that of the conveyance of military persons concerned in the actual operations of the enemy. The reason why this is a breach of neutrality is plain. It is of the greatest service to a belligerent that its military officers should be transported safely to the place where they are intended to serve. A vessel that renders this service as clearly takes part in a war as if it were endeavouring to land shot and shell in a port of a belligerent. On the other hand, the private subjects of a belligerent State may always be safely carried on board a neutral vessel. It is part of her ordinary carrying trade, from which she is no more to be debarred in time of war than from the carriage of silks or cottons to an open port of a belligerent. It is true that the Commissioners were something more than private citizens of the belligerent Power. They were Envoys dispatched on a special mission to neutral Powers. But this only throws over them an additional protection. If a neutral flag will shelter a private man, much more will it shelter a man who is invested with a degree of ambassadorial sanctity, and makes a special appeal to its protection by the very character of his office. There is also a further point—if the carriage of the Commissioners is to be treated as an infraction of neutrality analogous to that of carrying munitions of war. The vessel and all persons and things on board it held to be contraband ought to have been carried into the jurisdiction of a regular Court of Prize, and the question ought there to have been submitted to the scrutiny of a strict legal investigation. International law would be a nullity if every commander of a man-of-war were to constitute himself in the first instance a military Judge, and condemn as contraband whatever he might like to seize on.—*Saturday Review*.

We apprehend that upon the law of the case Lord Palmerston and his colleagues are relieved from all difficulty by the inconceivably stupid misconduct of Captain Wilks and those under his command. He seems neither to have understood the nature of the right of search, nor the nature of the wrong he was perpetrating by its abuse. He did not ask for the despatches, which he had a right to ask for, but he did ask for the surrender of four individuals, which in the first instance he had no right to ask for. Had he named both in the same breath, there might be room for legal argument; but, if the facts be as set forth in the protest of the Admiralty agent, no room whatever is left for discussion. An infinitely more important point, however, remains, on which it is to be hoped the matter will speedily be set at rest. On being refused the prisoners whom he sought, the proper course for Captain Wilks would have been to have taken the Trent into the nearest port as his prize, and to have demanded an adjudication in his favour by a competent tribunal. Instead of so doing he thought fit to usurp the functions of international judicature, and attempted to cut short the discussion of nice questions of international jurisprudence by the wave of his Lieutenant's hand and the flash of his seamen's cutlasses. No civilised Government can be supposed capable of defending corsair practice like this. Were it tolerated for an hour there would be an end to peace and freedom of the seas. In justice and courtesy, however, we are bound to take for granted that the piratical acts in question were committed without authority, and that they will be promptly disavowed by the Cabinet of Washington.—*Examiner*.

If there be no war, there is, as the Americans have always strenuously maintained, no right of search; but if there be a war, as the United States now admit—for they claim the benefit of the laws of contraband—then the Southern gentlemen cannot be said to owe the allegiance of citizens to both belligerent Powers at once, the Federal Government as well as the Confederate Government. We maintained in 1806 the right to search neutral vessels for our own seamen, in order to employ them against France, not the right to search neutral vessels for French citizens. But in this case the Southerners stand in relation to the Government at Washington as French citizens then stood in relation to our Government, not as English citizens did. If we are *bona fide* neutral, we can no more admit that those who take part with the South really owe allegiance to the North than we can that those who take part with the North really owe allegiance to the South. If the United States take the benefit of our neutrality, they can no more ask us to regard Messrs. Slidell and Mason as their citizens than we could have asked them in 1806 to regard Frenchmen as our citizens. If we are "neutrals," then there must be two belligerents, and Southerners must owe *prima facie* obedience to one and not to both belligerents. If this is not so, there is no war, and, consequently, no right of search.—*Spectator*.

OPINIONS OF FRENCH NEWSPAPERS.

In our opinion it is difficult for England to remain indifferent in presence of a violation of international law which concerns all maritime nations. We believe that very likely the Northern States will refuse to accede to the demands made by England. In that case we may presume that war will be immediately declared, and the first act of hostility will be the recognition of the Southern States. . . . We are convinced that the war between the two countries will be an interminable one; but, on the other hand, we cannot remain idle spectators of a struggle between North America and England. It is quite clear that it is not our duty to avenge the wrongs of England, but the recognition of the South by that Power, which would imply a final separation from the United States, could not be regarded as an isolated act, and would impose upon France the necessity of assuming a decisive attitude in this question. The result would be that two great maritime Powers of Europe might be (*pourrait être*) drawn into a common action with the same identical political object; and that being the case, as we have observed before, President Lincoln, by provoking an act of brutality, may, perhaps, have acted with foresight by preparing a separation which he can neither propose nor accept.—*Paris Patrie*.

The act committed by the Federal officers of the Federal Navy is deeply to be regretted; for, at the same time that it furnishes a complaint at the least specious to the adversaries of the cause which is represented by the Government of Washington in its struggle with the Southern States, it will have for effect to weaken the just sympathies which that cause, which is for us the good one, has met with and merits to retain in Europe. However this may be, the public emotion has reached its height on the other side the Channel, and the organs of the press are nearly unanimous in loudly calling for reparation for the outrage committed on the British flag.—*Debats*.

England offers at the present moment one of those spectacles which are the glory of a free people. Whatever opinion may be entertained respecting this affair of the Trent, it is impossible not to admire the public spirit which has manifested itself from one end of England to the other, and which, so to say, vibrates a chord of indignation in every English heart. There is always something grand and instructive in the agitation of this people, which is passionately devoted to commerce, but at the same time jealous of its rights and of the honour of its flag, and which, wherever it assembles or labours, expresses, in a thousand ways, the incomparable energy of its feelings. The interest which must always be attached to so noble a spectacle is doubled to-day in consequence of the violent act which has produced this general explosion of indignation. The English people are averse to war, as, more than any other country in the world, they are engaged in great commercial enterprises. England will only go to war as a last extremity; but we know how little the great sacrifice will cost to her patriotism.—*Presse*.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE WESTMINSTER RIFLES.

On Saturday afternoon, in Westminster Hall, were distributed the prizes which have been contended for by the members of the Queen's (Westminster) during the past summer at their shooting-ground at Wormwood Scrubs. A numerous and distinguished company assembled on the steps at the upper end of the hall to witness the ceremony, among whom were the Duchess of Sutherland, the Earl of Carlisle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone, Mr. Howard, M.P., Lord Ranelagh, Lord Radstock, the Dean of Westminster, Chaplain of the corps: Lord Albert Gower, Mr. Kinnaird, M.P.; and Mr. and Lady Vernon. On a long table placed across the hall were spread the prizes, which amounted in value to close upon £800; and a magnificent show they made. The prizes were distributed by Countess Grosvenor, the wife of the Lieutenant-Colonel commanding the corps. The regiment, which is now eighteen companies strong, was formed in three sides of a square, the winners being drawn up in a line two deep, in front of the dais. The proceedings were commenced by

Lord Grosvenor, who, addressing the corps, said,—"I am sure you will allow me, in the name of the regiment, to express our very hearty and cordial thanks to those ladies and gentlemen of Westminster who have given us prizes this year. Having expressed our gratitude for this liberality, I will say a word as to the shooting of the year. I have here a paper showing the result of the shooting for this season, which I find is most satisfactory. Last year, when our corps was fewer in numbers, 422 shot at the butts, and the average figure of merit was 12 and a fraction. This year 627 have shot, and their average figure of merit is 18 and a fraction, thus showing not only an improvement in the numbers, but also in the average quality of the shooting. But I am sure you will feel that there is still room for improvement, and that though we may win prizes in the regiment which are given to the regiment, yet still there are prizes given by her Majesty, by the Prince Consort, the Prince of Wales, and by many others which it is as open to

members of this regiment to win as to gentlemen belonging to other corps. At the same time, while I should like to see members of this corps winning those prizes, I would rather see a large number of members making a good average figure of merit. It is my earnest hope that you may go on exerting yourselves as you have for the last two years. I see no sign of decay in this regiment or the volunteer movement generally. Judging from the appearance of storms which are visible not only over the continent of Europe, but also in America, where we see what a little spark may ignite a great conflagration, I need scarcely say to you that this is not a moment when we should suffer our energies in any way to relax. On the contrary, now, as much as ever, we ought by every new endeavour in our power to maintain and increase the efficiency of the volunteer corps of Great Britain. We can have no better motto than that of an old English family—"Ready; aye, ready!"

Countess Grosvenor then came forward and said,—"Gentlemen of the Queen's Westminster Volunteers,—It is with very great pleasure that I have accepted the invitation to be present here to assist in distributing the prizes you have won. You will easily believe what deep, very deep, interest I must naturally feel in all that concerns the welfare of this corps. I beg to congratulate with all my heart you, gentlemen, who are winners of the prizes; and to you, gentlemen, who have not yet been so fortunate I will only say, 'Do not be discouraged, but persevere in your efforts.' Yours is a noble cause. It is my earnest wish and prayer that my husband may long be associated with you, and I say to you most heartily, 'May the blessing of God ever be with you.'"

This short address, which was delivered in a firm, clear tone, which was audible all over the hall, was received with loud cheers by the officers and men. The prizes were then presented. The first grand regimental prize—a gold and silver tankard, given by Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Grosvenor and Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Gerald Fitzgerald—was taken by Lieutenant Robert Fowler; and Ensign Black carried off the second grand regimental prize, a bronze figure of Mercury, after John of Bologna. Ensign Black was also the winner of a silver cup, value £10 10s., and of a rifle. A silver gilt cup, value £21, given by Mr. Angel, and competed for by the marksmen of the corps, was won by Private Hunt. Private Weatherdon carried off a silver cup given to the second company by four ladies, and Private Falwasser another silver cup, value £21, given by Captain Bushby to the third company. The Jacob rifle, value £20, given by Captain Vacher to the fourth company, was won by Private Taylor; and in the ninth company a Henry rifle and a challenge cup, given by the officers of the regiment, was carried off by Private Porter. A purse of £10, given by Mr. Maclean to the ninth company, was carried off by Corporal Whitmore; and Private Robert Keeble was the winner of the silver tea and coffee service, value 15 guineas, given by Captain Corseaden, to be competed for by the eleventh company. Lieutenant Levin also gave an epergne to the same company, which was won by Private Seymour. A silver challenge cup, given by the ladies of St. James's to the twelfth company, value £30, was carried off by Ensign Gullick; and Corporal Shipway, of the same company, won the Henry rifle, value £26, given by Captain Sartoris. The private company prizes in this company alone were more than £90 in value. In the thirteenth and fourteenth companies (the St. Martin's division) Private Pietro Antonio Bonetto carried off the cup, valued at 15 guineas, given by the honorary members. The same gentleman was the winner also of a long Enfield, and of one of the marksmen's badges. Private Hunt, the winner of Mr. Angel's cup, also carried off a Westley Richards rifle, valued at 15 guineas. Another Westley Richards breech-loader, given by Captain Nightingale and Mr. Barton, to the sixteenth company, was carried off by Corporal Webb. Altogether there were seventy-three private prizes, besides forty London Armoury long Enfield rifles, given as company prizes. In addition to this, sixty-two badges were presented to the crack marksmen of the regiment, among whom Private Porter and Private Griffiths took the first places as the best shots in the first and second battalions respectively. The silver challenge bugle, given by Lord Grosvenor to the company whose figure of merit was the highest, was won by the fifteenth company.

At the close of the distribution the regiment formed in companies, and the officers took post to the front in review order. Three cheers were given for the Queen, for Lady Grosvenor, for the donors of prizes, and for the two Lieutenant-Colonels, Lord Grosvenor and Lord Gerald Fitzgerald, and the proceedings ended.

THE KODJA COLLECTING THE TAX OF THE SPANISH INDEMNITY.

We have already published an Engraving of the presentation of Prince Muley Abbas as the Plenipotentiary of Morocco to the Court of Spain. The treaty agreed to includes the payment of the indemnity claimed after the taking of Tetuan. It will be remembered that the indemnity, as originally promised, was not forthcoming, and Tetuan remained in the possession of the Spanish troops notwithstanding the efforts of the Government of Morocco to squeeze the taxes from the people. The situation was indeed one of considerable difficulty, since many of the petty chieftains refused altogether to subscribe, and some of the common people were very much of the opinion that they could better afford to lose Tetuan than to submit to absolute starvation for the sake of paying into the Imperial treasury.

This state of things had to be explained to the Spanish Government, and a fresh agreement was proposed, by which an extension of time should enable the taxgatherers to collect the required sum. The usual course of this operation would seem to be that the taxgatherer, or kodja, leaves the most important part of the district, where he of course resides, and proceeds from village to village, after having made his intended visits known by means of messengers sent on to prepare the people for his coming. His escort is composed of a secretary and treasurer, who takes care of the money; a herald, to announce him; two or three personal slaves, generally Riffs, and a suite of ten of the Moorish Guards.

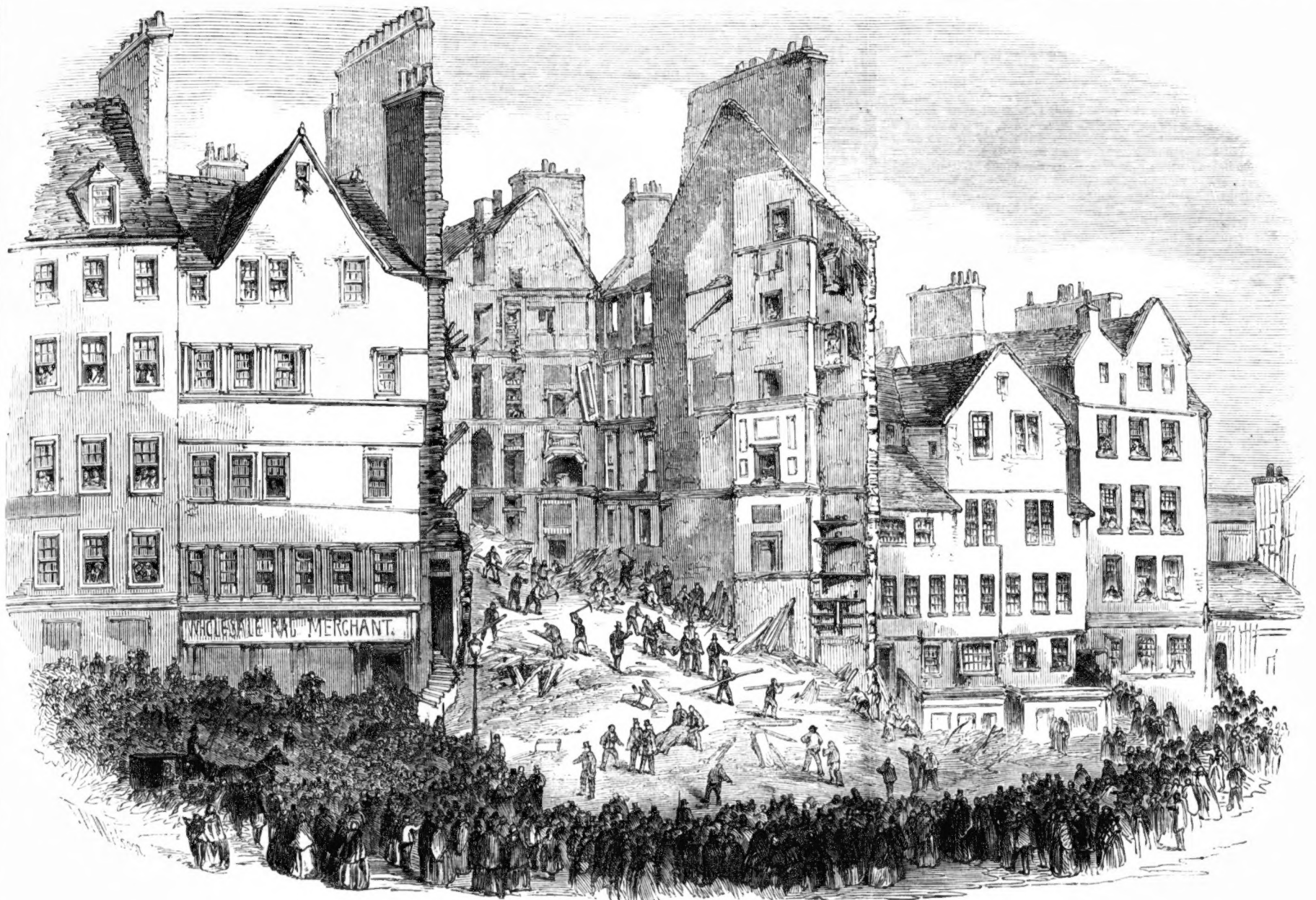
The taxes are all included in one amount, so that that there is no necessity for particularising the reasons for increasing them; and the kodja exercises a terrible function, and the personal needs of the Emperor are sufficient justification of his demands. In the towns where the property of the inhabitants is pretty well known, and is liable to sequestration on any refusal to pay, the taxgathering is not so difficult; but in the wilder parts of the country, and especially in the mountains, the arrival of the herald announcing the visit of the kodja is merely a signal for the immediate departure of the people, who take to sudden flight after having concealed in some place of security such few valuables as they have time to lay hands on.

It not unfrequently happens that the douars, perched like birds' nests on the summits of the rocks, are not entered by the messengers of the Imperial treasury without a rather violent re-entrance of the intrusion, and in this case the ten guards of the escort have to perform the duty of setting fire to one or two of the houses, in order to strike a wholesome terror into the inhabitants; and, indeed, so greatly are these soldiers feared that the appearance of a dozen of them in a village would almost suffice to quell a rebellion. The whole appearance of the taxgatherer and his suite is so picturesque that we have believed it would be interesting to our readers to have a representation of them from a Sketch made in Mogadore after the Spanish War.

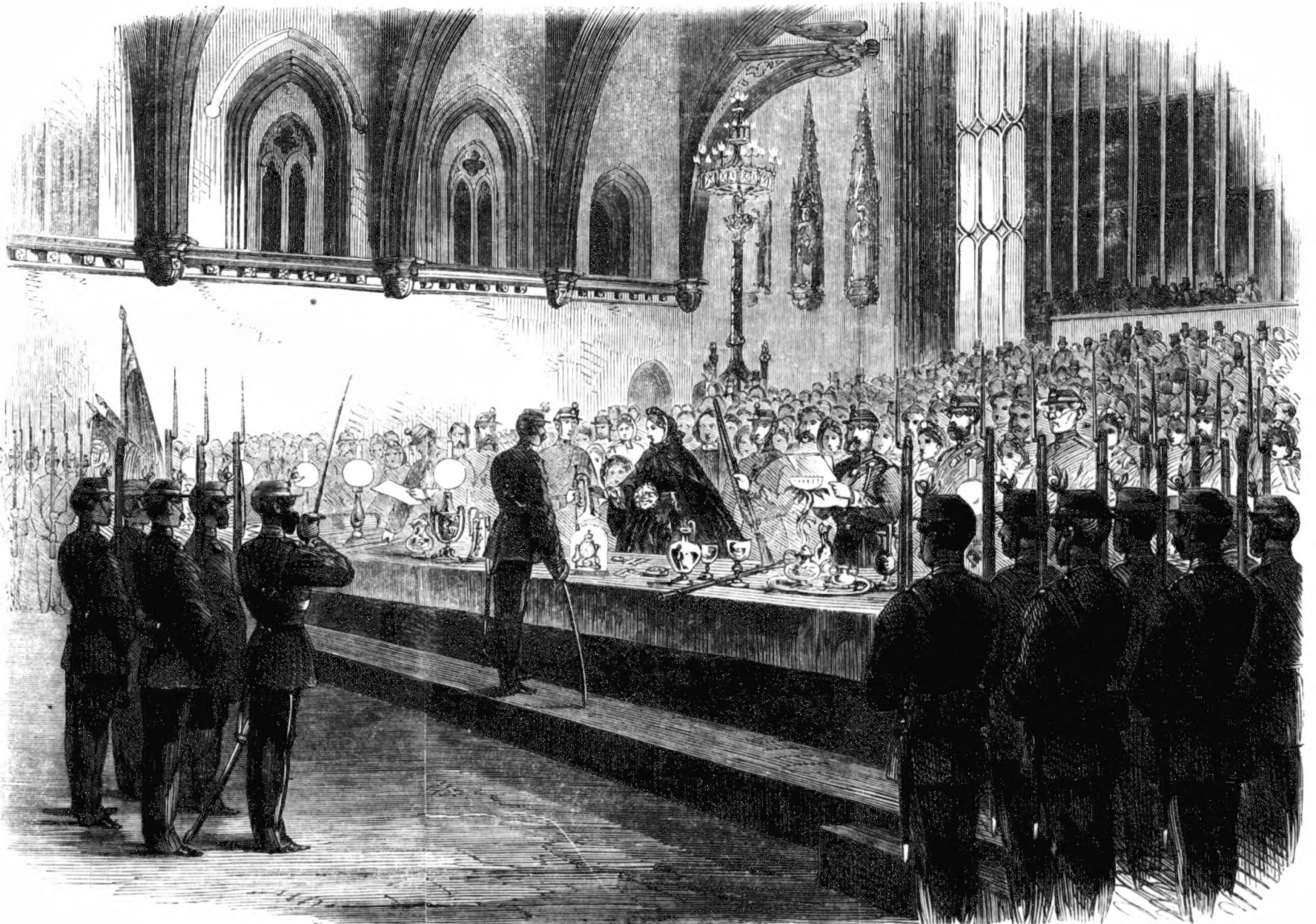
PRISON PROSECUTION IN FRANCE.—Press prosecutions appear to be one of the institutions of France. It is one which attracts most attention at the present moment is that against the Marquis de Pierré, who, being a public functionary, was convicted of sending to foreign journals intelligence inimical to the empire. The Court passed on him a sentence of two months' imprisonment and 5000f. fine.



COLLECTING THE TAX FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE SPANISH INDEMNITY AT MOCADOR. [FROM A SKETCH BY C. YRIARTE.]



REMOVING THE DEAD AND WOUNDED FROM THE FALLEN HOUSE IN THE HIGH-STREET, EDINBURGH.—(FROM A SKETCH BY J. O. BROWN.)



DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES TO THE SUCCESSFUL MEMBERS OF THE QUEEN'S VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS AT WESTMINSTER HALL.—SEE PAGE 359.

THE CATASTROPHE AT EDINBURGH.

THE full extent of the catastrophe occasioned by the fall of the house, 109, High-street, Edinburgh, has now been ascertained. Thirty-five bodies have been recovered from the ruins, the remains of persons of all ages, from ninety to sucklings found on the mother's breast. The number of the escaped and rescued is, so far as can be ascertained, thirty-two. The bodies last extricated were those of David Skirving, cabinetmaker, and his wife and daughter, which were found on Thursday week. The daughter was the first of the three discovered, the body slipping down from a corner of the building on some wooden beams being removed. The remains of Skirving and his wife were found about five feet below the surface of the street, the very cellarage having been choked with the ruins. This family resided on the second floor, in the corner of the building last cleared, the walls of their house being conspicuous after the clearance by a large coloured print of her Majesty adorning the chimney-piece. The excavations were continued until the foundations of the house were laid bare, about eighteen feet below the level of the street. The cause of the catastrophe was at last disclosed. There was a concealed stone wall, three feet thick, which ran parallel to the front and back walls, in the middle of the huge building, but which was not carried into either of the gables, and it was found that on the west side it had been to a large extent undermined to make way for a boiler, the heat from which had helped to crumble the thin remainder of the wall. The boiler had been there for probably thirty or forty years, but of late it had been very little used. The wall had been further weakened by hollowing out a chimney for the boiler, and by carrying through a door. On the east side the wall on the shop floor had been partly removed, it is believed in 1811, to open the shop from front to rear, two pillars of the wall only being left for support. This wall was not only undermined, but was utterly decayed; and it not merely fell, but was shattered to pieces, one considerable fragment of it only being found remaining. The timbers, also, were perfectly rotten with age. On the sixth day after the catastrophe a cat and dog were extricated alive, both much emaciated. Some of the animals dug out alive from the ruins, including two birds taken down from the walls in their cages, have been since sold for considerable sums, one gentleman giving £20 for a little mongrel previously not worth as many pence. The fund for the relief of the sufferers amounts to about £1200 or £1500, and would have been much greater but that large contributions have not been encouraged, from the fear of embarrassing the committee with a surplus, as has been the case with several fire funds. There is no doubt the fund will be quite ample, but many are displeased that the ready bounty of the public should have been repressed either by example or advice. The inmates have been allowed to return to the houses on the west and south sides of the fallen building, but that on the east side has been rendered uninhabitable. The late accident has caused a strict investigation by many proprietors into the condition of their properties, and in the case of three or four other large buildings the tenants have been warned out, and the tendency of this movement for the present is only to crowd still more the habitations of the poorer classes. In other cases the tenants are filled with alarm, there being many of the older houses in probably no better condition than the fallen one. At a meeting held on Friday evening to institute a co-operation society among working men for the erection of houses, Mr. William Chambers, who presided, made an interesting statement as to the age of many of the houses in Edinburgh. He said:—

"I have no doubt that the house which has just fallen and killed above thirty human beings was as old as the Battle of Flodden, if not older. You may observe many old buildings with wooden fronts, very picturesque, but very crazy. These timber fronts were added 70 ft. in advance of the original stone walls at the clearing of the Boroughmuir of its woods in 1508, and to all appearance the edifices behind these curious fronts had existed a century previously; in other words, there must be many tenements which might be dated as far back as about the year 1400, or nearly 100 years before the discovery of America. For anything we know, the fallen house may have been one of these very old tenements, for its comparatively modern stone front, which gave it a substantial appearance, was only a disguise to the rottenness behind. Originally the houses of people of distinction, these ancient tenements are at length mere lumberers of the ground."

The Rev. Dr. Guthrie, in addressing a meeting at Coupar-Angus a few days after the terrible occurrence, gave an account of his visits to the scene on the day the catastrophe happened and the succeeding one, as well as to the infirmary, the police-office, &c., whither the dead, the injured, and the rescued had been conveyed. He said:—"My first visit was on Sunday evening, in the fading light of day, and it was a most awful thing to see the dresses on the walls, three or four stories high, which had been hung up by the inhabitants before the building sunk. There were wardrobes which were exposed upon the wall, and it was a horrid thing to look up there, and see three or four gowns shaking and moving most ghastly-like in the wind of the night, and think that right down below were those that had put them off the preceding night, in perfect health, now lying begrimed, and mangled, and blackened corpses. I was struck with a staff that was hanging upon the wall, which was five stories high. Little did that man think that staff was never to be in his hands again! There were looking-glasses hanging up there, where, I have no doubt, woman had admired herself—where she had dressed herself—and there they were flickering in the evening twilight. There were two clocks, too, about 70 ft. high, that told the hour when the catastrophe had happened, and they were emblems of the owners below—death had stopped the pendulum. Other articles might be seen, from which it was plain that the hands which had placed them there on that fatal night had been preparing for the Sabbath-day; the clothes—the week-day clothes—laid past, and the Sabbath clothes laid out. There were four or five fireplaces with the coals on the fire; and in some of them the very fires were burning, after the hands that had kindled them were paralysed in death. Of all the sights I ever saw before, those in the police-office were the most ghastly, and they were the most affecting. The bodies bore evidence that death in many instances had taken place in a moment. They were dug out of the ruins of their homes—some of them 10, 12, or 14 feet below that mass of rubbish. Some of them had been suffocated there; some of them had had time to pray; and there was one woman whose face bore all the evidence of slow suffocation. Another had had time to know what was to happen. She seemed just to have waked from her sleep—to have seen the gulf on which she was standing—that in another moment she would be in eternity—and the eyes, and the mouth, and the whole face was a picture of unutterable horror, and when that horror was on her death fixed features. There she lay, a most ghastly spectacle. At another place I saw a babe lying on a mother's breast. It was most touching to see it—the dead mother and the dead babe in her arms! There was a mother lying beside her husband. He was a powerfully-built man—a perfect athlete in appearance—and there he lay as if he slumbered, without a mark of pain or suffering on his face, and beside him—as they had lain living and lain loving in one couch together—lay his poor, cold, dead wife; and so sudden had death been there that she lay with her hand upon her cheek—she hadn't had time to move a finger when she died. It was an awful sight; and I tell you I was thankful to see, as far as I could see, that there were none among all these corpses that had been leading a vicious, an impure, or an unholly life. They were, so far as we could learn or see, decent people, which is not the case in many of the houses in that locality. I left the cell of the dead, and I went to the cell of the living. There lay on the floor two pretty little girls, interesting and intelligent. I asked one of them, 'Had you any warning?' 'Oh yes, Sir,' she said,

'my mother heard a noise like a great crack, and she rose and said the house was falling.' 'And what happened then?' 'Oh, you see, Sir, she heard no more of it, and she came beside me to bed.' And I said, 'How long did you lie in bed before the roof and the building fell?' She said, 'Perhaps, Sir, I was ten minutes in my bed when the roof came in and fell upon us, and I went down, down, down, till at length I remembered no more about it.' That child was, as it were, one brought from the grave. They dug her up by torchlight—the brave, bold men!—expecting every moment to be buried, and very likely might have been, in the same grave with those whom they sought to save."

The accompanying Engraving, representing the scene subsequent to the occurrence of the accident, is after an admirable sketch from the pencil of an artist resident in Edinburgh, and will convey a vivid idea of the awful nature of the catastrophe.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1861.

DIEU ET MON DROIT.

THE all-absorbing topic of the week has been the seizure of the four Southern gentlemen on board a British vessel by a Federal man-of-war. But by far the most interesting aspect from which this matter can be regarded, in this place at least, is the thoroughly healthy way in which it has been met by the English people.

England has always been jealous of her right of protecting. Not many years have elapsed since the present Premier, with all his Ministry, was driven from power because he endeavoured to carry a bill against conspiracy, which bill, since acknowledged to be right in principle, and indeed expanded into law, appeared just at that period to be a concession of England's right of protecting refugees. To attack this right was to touch the most sensitive point of the national honour.

When, last week, the news of the so-called outrage was made public, an ebullition of popular indignation might have been predicated of a nation less intensely logical. It would have been a pardonable weakness to exhibit upon the facts as reported a just anger which might afterwards have been softened by expostulation or explanation. But it is in this respect that our countrymen have, as we take it, the highest grounds for self-gratulation upon the improvement of the temper of the times. For awhile the judgment of England was suspended. The people awaited, firstly, confirmation of the facts; secondly, the opinion of the authorities whom they respect and trust as to the legality or otherwise of the alleged cause of offence. Nor was this all. The whole tenor of popular conversation seemed to take one direction, that of implicit confidence in the Government happily in power at the moment.

The whole tone of the press confirms this view so spontaneously taken by the public. Even those of our contemporaries who saw in the affair a violation of international law pointed out that the offence might have been the unauthorised act of an individual, that it might have been the result of a misconception of right, or that it might be atoned for by apology and reparation. And yet, notwithstanding this argumentative calmness, the heart of England was stirred to depths beyond those probed, perhaps, by any single event of modern days.

Contrast with this the reception of the intelligence in New York. All that the North can possibly have gained by this aggression is the interception of four individuals whose places can no doubt be readily supplied without much detriment to their peculiar mission. Whatever that mission may have been, its advantage to their cause must be the merest trifle in comparison to that gained on the side they represent by their capture. And yet, instantly on the receipt of the news, New York rises into a fervour of excitement. The conduct of the Sea Captain who fired shotguns instead of blank cartridge to stop a neutral and unarmed vessel is lauded to the skies as the embodiment of gallantry and heroism. The whole city is "spontaneously illuminated." The mob shouts frantically for war with England, whether right or wrong, insensible to the certain truth that, if England be in the wrong in the matter, no Government is so strong as to drive her into a war upon the question.

We look upon these two contrasted sequences of the seizure as social facts well worthy deep attention, as exemplifying the characteristics of the two nations. This habit of thinking before action is one of the most useful which a man or a nation can acquire. People who think, and make sure they are right before they act, generally act vigorously when the time comes. So Butler describes his Ralpho, when attempted to be unjustly put upon, as advising his adversary to

Look before you are you leap,
For as you sow you're like to reap.
And were y' as good as George-a-Green
I shall make bold to turn again.
Ner am I doubtful of the issue
In a just quarrel, and mine is so.

We have directed attention especially to the contrast between the manner of the reception of the news in the two countries, not only on account of its social bearings, but because we believe that this point of view is one which will prove of

great ultimate significance. We have heretofore warred with America, and we have been defeated, as in the War of Independence, when America was clearly in the right and when British hearts failed them in fighting to establish a wrong. The Governments of that day urged on a war in despite of a large and influential minority. In this matter, should it progress to a war, it will be fought on the one hand upon the compulsion of a turbulent and unreasoning American mob, and on the other carried out after the calmest, deepest reflection by the whole heart and soul of England. Like Ralpho, we are not doubtful of the issue.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE GREAT CENTRAL ASIATIC EXPLORING EXPEDITION, which was to have been led by Captain Smith, has been abandoned.

A SPECIAL DESPATCH was forwarded on Sunday from the Government by the Royal mail-jacket *Seine* to Admiral Milne, the naval commander on the West India station.

IN HEREFORDSHIRE, the other day, a donkey followed the hounds and was third in at the death. When any object presented itself too formidable to jump, he rushed his head at it and so got through, making a passage for the sportsmen.

PROFESSOR WILHELM HENSEL, member of the Senate of the Berlin Academy of Arts, well known for his excellent skill as a painter, died a few days since from injuries received while endeavouring to rescue a person from being driven over.

A COMMITTEE is now sitting for the purpose of revising the rules and interior regulations of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich.

THE TESTIMONIAL to Mr. CHARLES KEAN amounts in subscriptions to nearly £2000, and it will be presented to Mr. C. Kean in London early in the ensuing year.

IN A FARMHOUSE NEAR BLAENAVON, in South Wales, a small pig is suckled by a goat which has been deprived of its offspring, and the two animals seem as much attached to each other as though they were born of the same mother and son.

THE TREATY OF COMMERCE BETWEEN PRUSSIA AND CHINA was signed by the late Emperor two days before his death.

THE CONVICTS AT DARTMOOR PRISON are in a very mutinous state. Some of them have been flogged.

THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, eldest son of the Duke of Devonshire, is about to marry the Hon. Miss Pitt, daughter of Lord and Lady Rivers.

THE HON. GRANTLEY BERKELEY has engaged to deliver a lecture at the great annual bird show to be held next week at Southampton.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA is about to visit Venice, where a meeting of reactionary and retrograde agents is to take place, including, it is reported, the ex-King of Naples.

PRINCE OSCAR OF SWEDEN is about to visit the King of Italy in Turin.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place between Lady Londborough and Lord Otto Fitzgerald, son of the Duke of Leinster.

THE SITUATION OF AFFAIRS IN AMERICA is beginning to produce its effects in Prussia. Independently of an advance in the price of cotton goods, the large manufactory at Gladbach has just announced that in a short time a considerable reduction will be made in its time of working.

MR. THOMAS SKERMER, chief superintendent of police at Coventry, has absconded from that city with £35, the property of the Corporation.

THERE IS NOW EVERY PROSPECT OF TROOP SERGEANT-MAJOR KENNEDY, who was shot by a soldier for turning him out of some private theatricals, recovering from the wound.

EARL RUSSELL, it is said, is engaged in writing a work entitled, "The Modern Political History of England."

GENERAL GUYON has arrived in Rome, and has been received by the Pope.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH received on Saturday a letter from the Emperor of Russia notifying the birth of a Prince, the son of the Grand Duke Michael Nicolaewitch and of her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna.

M. FRANKLIN DE SAINT-BON, an officer of the Italian Navy, has been sent to England to purchase ten steam-transports and twelve gun-boats.

MARSHAL CANNONET is reported to be very ill.

IT IS SAID THAT THE CONSERVATIVES will petition against the return of Mr. Potter for Carlisle.

MR. HORSFALL, M.P., and MR. CORDEN, M.P., have addressed letters to the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce suggesting that the rights of belligerents at sea and the principles of blockades should be well discussed in that and similar bodies before the meeting of Parliament.

MAJOR-GENERAL SARINE has been selected for president of the Royal Society. Lord Brougham's name had also been mentioned, but the gallant and scientific soldier seems to have had the preference.

LORD DACRE, while shooting in the Highlands, has met with an accident from the unintentional explosion of his gun. His Lordship's arm is seriously injured.

INTELLIGENCE comes from Turin that Mazzini is dangerously ill in England, and that several of his friends at Genoa and Milan have been summoned to his bedside. The Deputy Baili, who was his colleague at Rome during the Triumvirate of 1849, is said to be among the number.

A PRIVATE LUNATIC ASYLUM was burned down near Reigate on Saturday morning last, when one patient was burnt to death and another is believed to have made his escape.

THE MEN CHARGED WITH STEALING GOODS from the ship *Regina*, near Colchester, have been found guilty and fined £50 each, or to suffer three months' imprisonment.

DON JUAN, the Spanish Pretender, is in the London money market, asking for a loan, the money to be repaid by grants of the Royal demesnes—when he gets them.

AT WINDSOR A Dissenter lost the mayoralty on the undisputed ground that he would not go once a month, in official state, to a certain church in that borough.

THE QUANTITY OF GRAIN IMPORTED INTO FRANCE appears to be sufficient to guarantee the present wants of consumers.

MR. SPURGEON, lately preaching, stopped short in the middle of his sermon and said, "Perhaps, my friends, you may think I ramble; but if you will ramble to the devil, I must ramble after you."

IN THE CASE OF THE BRITISH SHIP *PERTHSHIRE*, captured by the Federalists, it having been proved to the Federal Government that her detention was illegal, the President has promised to recommend the payment of £200 indemnity.

ADVICES FROM ST. PETERSBURG mention the failure of Messrs. Frome, Gregory, and Co., iron and machine agents, with liabilities supposed to be rather large.

THE FAILURE is said to have occurred of the banking-house of M. Dubois, at Caen, for a sum equal to about £50,000.

THE KING OF PORTUGAL has convoked the Cortes for the 23rd of December, in order to take the oath to the Constitution in their presence.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR has nominated Mr. J. Mellor, Q.C., M.P. for Nottingham, and Recorder of Leicester, to the seat on the Bench vacant by the resignation of Mr. Justice Hill. The vacant judgeship was declined by the Attorney-General, Sir W. Atherton, M.P.

IN THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER Mrs. Gardner, whose husband was killed by the accident in the Clayton tunnel, obtained £500 damages from the Brighton Railway Company. It is stated that the company have made arrangements by which the remaining claims against them will be settled out of court.

THE CITY OF FRANKFORT has declared to the Diet that for the future it can no longer support the expenses of keeping up the Federal garrison, which are not defrayed by the respective States, as a resolution of the Legislative Body is opposed to it.

THE VICAR OF SCARBOROUGH, the Rev. Dr. Whiteside, has withdrawn his support from the Scarborough Mechanics Institution on the ground that the committee has violated a fundamental rule of the institution by letting their large room on a Sunday to a body of Congregational Dissenters.

PRINCE COUZA is named by the Porte Governor of the Danubian Principalities during his lifetime. There is to be one Parliament and one Administration. The relations of the Porte with the Couza Government are satisfactory.

A VIENNA LETTER of the 21st states that a deputy of the Reichsrath having in a secret committee asked the Government whether it would not be possible to reduce the effective strength of the Austrian army, the Minister of War replied that the Cabinet hoped to be able in a few months to arrive at that result, but that for the moment it was not possible.

MACHINES OF HUNLEY gave birth to twin daughters on the 29th

AN EARLY VISIT OF M. DE PERSIGNY to London is spoken of.

IT IS STATED THAT FRANCIS II., instead of thinking of quitting Rome, as he had intended, has ordered extensive repairs to be made in the palace of the popes in that city.

FROM ST. PETERSBURG it is stated that the Emperor of Russia intends to grant an amnesty to all persons implicated in the recent disturbances of the students.

THE LAMPS OF THE TOWN OF TULLY, ON TITLES OF NOBILITY presented to the House of Commons, have been unanimously rejected by the House.

THE BIRMINGHAM CATTLE SHOW, which opened on Monday, is a great success. The cattle, sheep, and pigs were very numerous, and of excellent quality. The visitors, too, were numerous and respectable as they had been in previous years.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH will leave for Nice in the course of next week. She will visit the charming principality of Monaco, and her time during the winter will be divided between the two countries.

THE FUNERAL OF FATHER LACORDAIRE took place a few days ago at the Archbishop of Toulouse presided at the ceremony, and the oration was delivered by the Bishop of Carcassonne. From 15,000 to 20,000 persons were present.

THE WRITERS OF THE *El Pueblo*, Madrid, has been condemned to six months' banishment, 5000 reals' fine, the cost of the prosecution, and the deprivation of political rights, for having published in that paper a political satire on the Minister of Grace and Justice.

M. MACDONALD WALLWOOD, better known as Lord Meadowbank (that was his official title while a Judge of the Scottish Court of Session), died yesterday. He passed Advocate in 1793, was made Lord Advocate in 1801, was raised to the Bench in 1821, and resigned in 1841, since which he has lived in retirement.

MONDAY THERE WAS A GREAT FOOTRACE AT LEEDS—the competitors being Blackfoot, Mills, Brighton, Barker, and Chiffe, an amateur of Leeds. The winner was the ten-mile champion cup and prizes of £10 and £5. Brighton, having beaten in Brighton, who was second, by two yards only.

THE LADY FRANKLIN, American ship, took fire in Plymouth harbour on Tuesday night, and considerable damage was done. It is suspected that she was caused wilfully, several of the crew being Southerners, as is the case with the men who have absconded.

THE CREW OF THE AMERICAN SHIP *PLATON* have been arrested at Plymouth on a charge of murdering the mate and another seaman, on the 12th of November, while at sea. The men have been handed over to the civil authorities.

WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS the divers engaged upon the Royal Charter have been exceedingly successful, having taken up a box containing £700, and the captain's chest containing from £10,000 to £50,000. It is believed that the valuables are now nearly all out of the ill-fated vessel.

ONE OF THE VERY DESTRUCTIVE CHARACTER broke out in the Napoleon Dock at Liverpool on Monday. The British sugar-refinery and the St. Felix warehouse were burnt down, and the fire was still raging. The loss is estimated at about £200,000.

AN IRISH TELEGRAM announces that Lord Canning is about to extend the limits of permanent settlement to the North-West Provinces.

THE PROCLAMATIONS the exportation of gunpowder, saltpetre, nitrate of potash, and brimstone, together with arms and warlike munitions of all kinds, is prohibited from any part of the United Kingdom and its dependencies.

SOME WORKERS OF PARIS, in thanking the Emperor for abolishing the lottery of the Bourse, proposed to erect a statue of his Majesty in the place of Mammion. This, however, the Emperor declined; but he gave them his personal instruction.

MR. PATON is engaged upon a picture for the Royal Academy representing two clowns seated upon a hillock watching a raid by moonlight. Some of the spirits are habited as knights and others appear as gnomes, after the manner of the work by Mr. Paton first became known to the public, the "Titania."

MR. BRIGHT, in presenting the prizes at the Rochdale Working Men's Institute on Monday evening, made some remarks upon education, pointing out the value of knowledge which was likely to render the most substantial benefit to the youth of both sexes, and urging them to take an interest in the public affairs of their country.

THE PATENT LIVERY did on Wednesday. A vacancy of alderman, therefore, exists in Aldersgate Ward; and among those mentioned as likely to be chosen as his successor is Mr. ex-Sheriff Lusk.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company has just issued its twenty-first annual report, and I think that a summary of this document may be interesting to your readers. It starts with a list of the ships of the company. The number of these is in all fifty-six adult and three new ones building. They are distributed over the world as follows—Six on the Southampton and Alexandria line, two on the Peninsular line, five on the Marseilles and Alexandria line, eight on the Calcutta and Suez line, thirteen on the Suez and Bombay and Bombay and China lines, three on the Ceylon and Sydney line, three on the China Coast line, two on the Suez and Mauritius line, one on the Bombay Harbour service, one on Red Sea highhouse service, three under charter to the French Government, one under repair, eight employed as transport, store, and coal ships, and three building. The total tonnage of this splendid fleet is 83,385 tons, and the horse-power is 17,771. The accounts, which are exceedingly simple and clear, show us that on the 30th of September last the company had in stock and cash £3,295,670 3s. 3d., and that, after deducting the capital received by the shareholders, debentures, and other liabilities under this head, a balance remained of £63,726 18s. The revenue for the year was £2,238,289 12s.; the expenditure £2,131,432 3s. 1d.; net profit, £106,857 8s. 11d., or, with a balance of profits from last year of £103,211 5s. 5d., £157,890 0s. 11d.; out of which, after paying 7 per cent dividend—£11,350 0s. 11d.—there remained a balance of £146,539 0s. 11d. But this 7 per cent is not all that has been paid to the shareholders, for the company are their own insurers, and out of the profits of the underwriting fund they have paid 3 per cent, making in all 10 per cent. The distance traversed by the fleet annually amounts to not less than 1,261,350 miles, and during the past year no casualty creating a charge upon the underwriters' account has occurred, which is really a remarkable fact, considering the directors say, "that much of the navigation is of a peculiar and intricate character." The size of the new ships building is as follows:—Two of 1000 tons and 400-horse power each, and one of 2000 and 500 horse. These are to be built of iron; the two first by Messrs. Standa Brothers and the last by the Thames Iron Shipbuilding Company. The last new ship, the Mooltan, 2267 tons, and 400 horse-power, has been two voyages between Southampton and Alexandria, and is reported on all hands a splendid success. In this magnificent vessel it will be remembered that great improvements in machinery for the purpose of economising fuel were introduced. It is satisfactory to learn that these improvements have entirely succeeded.

Such, then, is the condition of this noble company? It was established somewhat less than a quarter of a century ago. Its pointed and able projector, Mr. Brodie Wilcox, is still living, and is a man of the company. It arose from small beginnings. It has attained to its present height of prosperity because its directors were honest and able and its management wise and prudent. But what sort of a report will its directors have to present next year? One which at the thought of the dire prostration, not to say ruin, which war might bring upon this and kindred institutions. And war seems to be imminent. For if we get clear of this Trent difficulty without an appeal to "the arbitrament of bloody strokes," it is easy to see that in the present temper on both sides of the Atlantic we may any day be plunged into a war. And this leads us to note that that dangerous epidemic, the war fever, has evidently broken out here. Everywhere I see signs of it. Cowper

Wu's a game which, were their subjects wise, Kings could not play at. But this was written three-quarters of a century ago. Times have changed somewhat since then. It is not now—at least not in

England—the rulers alone who are anxious for war. Indeed, I believe, from all I see and hear, that if Lord Palmerston were to declare war to-morrow he would for a time immensely increase his popularity. But I have faith in Palmerston. He knows what war is, if many of us do not, for so long back as 1800 he was Secretary at War, and in that office he continued till long after the Peace in 1815; and Earl Russell, too, is old and experienced, and not likely to be thrown off his balance. Indeed, we could hardly be in better hands, and therefore let us hope for the best. I do not take much notice of the vapouring of the American papers: this is mere froth, and by no means represents the solid opinions of the wisest and best men in the States.

I do not hear that Parliament is likely to meet much earlier than usual in consequence of these American complications. Much, however, will depend upon the events of the next fortnight. If the clouds in the West should thicken, we should certainly have Parliament convened early in January; and, whatever may happen, I think that the meeting will not be postponed beyond the end of next month. Eight years ago, when war with Russia was imminent, Parliament met in November. Death has been busy amongst the statesmen who took part in the discussions of that time. The Earl of Aberdeen, Sir William Molesworth, Lord Herbert, Sir James Graham, and Sir Charles Napier, were all more or less prominent actors in that matter, and are now gone.

The Birkenhead writ is gone down, and the election will take place next week. The result of the contest between Messrs. Laird and Brassey is still doubtful, and must be so till the final close of the poll, for Birkenhead is a new borough, and the political opinions of its inhabitants have never been ascertained by a contest. Both the candidates, I understand, mean fighting in earnest; and as the sinews of war are not wanting, the fight is expected to be very severe.

I did not mention last week the name of the Turin correspondent. There was, however, I found, no necessity for this squeamishness, as his name has been published more than once. It is Gallenga; and Mr. Moir, the secretary of the Garibaldi Italian Unity Committee, thus writes of him in a letter to a newspaper:—"In 1833 he was a pretended regicide—a secretary to the Central Committee of Young Italy—and in subsequent years the secretary of the society of which Gioberti (whose character he has calumniated in the English magazines) was president. He became the enthusiastic apostle of monarchy when monarchy patronised him. When his regicide scheme became known he published a declaration promising on his word of honour, to abstain for ever from politics. This promise was no sooner made, however, than he was offered a post on the *Times*, and began to write anonymously on politics. At one time 'Gallenga' was Mazzini's friend, and now he is his bitterest calumniator. This is the man who misrepresents Italy, vilifies the good name of her greatest patriots—Garibaldi and his volunteers—and hoodwinks the English people."

Mr. Mellor is to be the new Judge. If political services to a party are the price of a judgeship, Mr. Mellor has not paid a very high price for his promotion, for he came into Parliament no longer ago than 1857. The place was offered to Sir William Atherton, but he declined it. I cannot understand why Mr. Collier was passed over, unless it be upon the ground that he is eight years younger than Mellor, and can afford to wait. Mr. Collier has been in Parliament nearly ten years, has supported the Government faithfully, and is of the two decidedly the abler man.

Mr. Cox is in the field for Finsbury—our old friend, who sat for that borough from 1857 to 1859. He had in the former year over 1500 votes, but in 1859 he was beaten by Sir Morton Peto by 3618. A Mr. Bury Victor Hutchinson, "the people's candidate," I see, is also in the field, but who Mr. Bury Victor Hutchinson is, I know not.

It is said that our legal authorities are by no means unanimous on the Trent business. One very high legal functionary, I am told, had grave doubts. Another boldly affirms that we have no case. Again, it is said that some difference of opinion prevailed upon the propriety of issuing the proclamation recognising the South as a belligerent Power, and I believe it to be certain that a distinguished law officer strongly objected to issuing it without stipulations. His notion was that we ought to stipulate with the Southerners that our ports should not be used by them as ports of refuge. In the City I learn that no ships can be insured beyond a certain date at any price, so strong is the feeling there that war is imminent.

That the feelings of the English public had gradually veered round, and that their sympathies now were rather with the Southern than with the Northern States of America, is perhaps generally acknowledged, save in those public journals which maintain, for sufficient reasons, a different tone; but I scarcely thought that the popular appreciation of one of the Southern institutions, slavery, was so great as to induce a theatrical audience to express disapprobation at an author for vigorously treating the slave question from an Exeter-Hall point of view. Such, at least, is the complaint of Mr. Boucicault, in a letter to the *Times*, and such is his explanation of the hissing which accompanied the fall of the curtain on the first night of his new piece, "The Octoroon." A clever, shifty, specious letter enough, but utterly false in its conclusions. The world has not twisted and gone backward, even though "The Octoroon" nearly failed. The fault is in the piece itself, which had a very dismal ending, with a painful display of physical suffering needlessly protracted, and in the depraved taste of the public, depraved by Mr. Boucicault and his imitators. Once create a "sensation," and your next attempt will fail unless a greater "sensation" is given. How wonderful was "The Perfect Cure," who jumped up and down for twenty consecutive minutes, singing all the while! but now one reads on the walls placards of "The Cure Upside Down. Mr. — will stand on his head and sing a comic song of half an hour's duration." The inverted buffoon has taken all the shine out of the original, and if Blondin comes to us next year he must do something far more terrific than he has done yet, or only strangers will patronise him. The "tremendous header" had led people to expect a much bigger leap or greater sensation of some kind, and, not finding it, they were disappointed. Besides, Mr. Boucicault's letter to the *Times* and the tone of his playbills and advertisements would give one the notion that his topic had never been touched. Why, fifteen years ago Mr. Shirley Brooks produced a piece called "The Creole" at the Lyceum with an almost similar plot. A slave-girl in Mauritius was in love with her master, who returned her passion, but by law had no power either to marry or enfranchise her. In his dilemma he sold her to the villain of the piece (curiously enough, also played by Mr. Emery), who promises to free her, but breaks his promise when he once has her in his power. If I remember rightly, the piece had a long run, and the audience were with the girl throughout, rejoicing when she was saved by a sort of *coup de théâtre*—the abolition of slavery in the Mauritius by the National Convention. But the Octoroon story had a better ending (and better scenery—what opportunities for effects have been lost!) it would have been a success; meantime, it is rather hard that our national taste should be impugned because Mr. Boucicault has experienced a partial failure.

A good deal has been written lately about storms and meteorological warnings, but, perhaps, no one has been so happy as a correspondent of the *Morning Star*, who, in a letter last week, treating of the "earth approaching an angular position to Jupiter," writes:—

These positions occur each month nearly, and of the nine which have occurred since the memorable one of Dec. 18, 1850, when the South-Eastern Railway was blocked up for nine hours by the sudden and heavy fall of snow in Hampshire, and which opened the memorable frost of that period.

South-Eastern Railway! Hampshire! Why, the angular position of the earth must have been critical, indeed, when it caused such a geographical bouleversement.

Mr. Charles Dickens's success in the provinces with his readings is said to be greater than ever. Mr. Dickens has a new reading of "Squeers" which is wonderfully popular. Next season Mr. Dickens will read frequently in London, thus giving opportunities for hearing him to the million strangers who are to be our guests.

We are glad to hear that the "Country Parson," whose "Recreations" have been read with universal pleasure, is about to give us a new volume of essays. It will be published about Christmas, and will be called "Leisure Hours in Town."

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mathews at Home" will probably prove a very successful entertainment. It is autobiographical so far as Mr. Mathews is concerned, and, indeed, it may be regarded as the essence of Mr. Mathews's life, delivered as he only could deliver it. Critically examined, there is very little in the plot from beginning to end; but, told in his quaint, chatty, conversational tone (and he addresses the audience exactly as though he were in his own drawing-room, and makes little confidences to them about his adventures with the scenery, &c.), it has a charm which will probably prove peculiarly successful. There are dressed assumptions of character both by Mr. and Mrs. Mathews, but all those of the gentleman he has given before on the stage, while the lady's attempts—save one, a "Yankee Gal," very well done—were not very good. The scenery has been cleverly painted by Mr. O'Connor from Mr. Mathews's sketches, and the decorations of the little stage are perfect.

"La Frilleuse," a posthumous comedy of M. Scribe, has been very cleverly adapted by Mr. Palgrave Simpson, and, under the title "Court Cards," is playing with success at the Olympic.

Mr. Byron's burlesque of "The Colleen Bawn" has been produced at DRURY LANE, and is literally a "screamer." Miss Louise Keeley acts and sings charmingly.

A gentleman of the name of Keyse has forwarded to our office a synopsis of a preposterous proposition for erecting a "grand national naval and military trophy" to the Queen and Prince Consort. After reading Mr. Keyse's notions of the design of the "trophy" and of the sums which he expects to receive for it, it is charitable merely to ascribe lunacy to him, and no worse form of disorder.

Two additions are made to the list of public lecturers this week. Mr. Edmund Yates has delivered at the Bayswater Athenaeum a descriptive satire on "Modern Society" (of which we publish a notice elsewhere); while Mr. Parkinson has delighted the residents of Wimbledon and several literary friends from town with a most vivacious and amusing description of the society and peculiarities of Scarborough.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

Why should not the "Adventures of Philip," now publishing in the *Cornhill*, go on until Mr. Thackeray's death? There can be no possible reason; they are the pleasantest reading, full of the most amusing cynical philosophy; and as, long since, every one has given up any notion of following the plot, or, indeed, of there being any plot whatever, the author may just as well go on from month to month, alternating amusing essay with natural dialogue, and delighting his readers while giving himself very little trouble. The present number is full of such capital matter. How good is the quarrel between General Baynes and Colonel Bunch—how natural the kindheartedness of Mme. Sinolensk—how grandly delicious the letter from Dr. Firmin to his son, studded with classical quotations, and ending with the news that he had drawn a bill on his correspondent! Mrs. Baynes may be objected to as unnatural; but she is that old caricature of a toy-figure mother-in-law which always appears among Mr. Thackeray's puppets, and which has already done duty as Mrs. Mackenzie, Lady Baker, &c. *Au reste*, the *Cornhill* is but poor reading. Mrs. Beecher Stowe's "Agnes of Sorrento" is what her countrymen call a "caution;" and, except to those who care to know how very popular Mr. Thackeray was in the United States, and how many presents of claret he received (N.B. Dozens of 20 port may be left by admirers, addressed care of Messrs. Smith and Elder), the "Roundabout Paper" is not very interesting. Mr. Doyle's cartoon of Leopard's entertainment has more life and character than any of this series; and Mr. Bennett's illustrations to a paper called "An Excursion Train" are richly humorous. The heavy padding is composed of two articles on "Competitive Examinations" and "The Reconstruction of the Navy," and of an instalment of Mr. Trollope's elegant fiction, in which, as a contemporary assessor, he has "tapped a new vein of humour."

In *Temple Bar* Mr. Sala winds up his romance, "The Seven Sons of Mammion," with great power. The description of the last agony of Mrs. Armytage is admirable; told with marvellously concentrated force. There is an essay on "Muscular Education," pregnant with good advice; a clever article on the new Education Minute, in which the views of the Council are defended; two travel papers, one called "Dreaming," the other "At Florence;" and some very pretty verses, called "Twilight." In the January number Mr. Sala begins a new romance, "The Story of Captain Dangers;" and the second of the first instalment of a new novel, called "America Flood."

There are three serial stories at present running in the *Blackwood*. Of "The Chronicles of Carlingford" and "Captain Clutterbuck's Champagne" we have already spoken. The new story, "Wassail," of which only one part is yet given, seems to be but a weak imitation of the "Adam Bede" style. A world-beatific article, called "A Word from a New Dictionary—Flunkayism," is poor enough. There is a spirited biographical and critical notice of the late Augustus Welby Pugin, and there are two papers on the American dispute. The most interesting article in the number is one on "Fechter in Hamlet and Othello," in which one can trace the hand of Mr. G. H. Lewes, and which is highly laudatory of the Hamlet and as condemnatory of the other character.

Mr. Fechter also has the honour of being the subject of an article in *Fraser*, at least he is the principal figure in the paper "Shakespeare and his Latest Interpreters," in which a view very similar to that of the critic in *Blackwood* is taken, and the performance of "Othello," and specially the alteration in the text and the marginal stage directions, are severely taken to task. Opportunity is also taken to give a wholesome castigation to Mr. Charles Kean, thus showing the writer's thorough impartiality. This number of *Fraser* contains the conclusion of Mr. John Stuart Mill's essay on utilitarianism, and of Major Melville's story of "Good for Nothing." The latter is very sad—unnecessarily sad, perhaps; but Major Melville has never written anything like so good a story before, and will take much higher rank among novelists. Mr. G. A. Lawrence's story, "Barren Honour," also improves as the writer settles to his stride. There is a splendid description of an encounter with poachers in this month's number that is wonderfully exciting. There are also some capital scenes of Oriental adventure, told in a very quaint way by Mr. Copley, entitled "Between the Cataracts without a Dragonman."

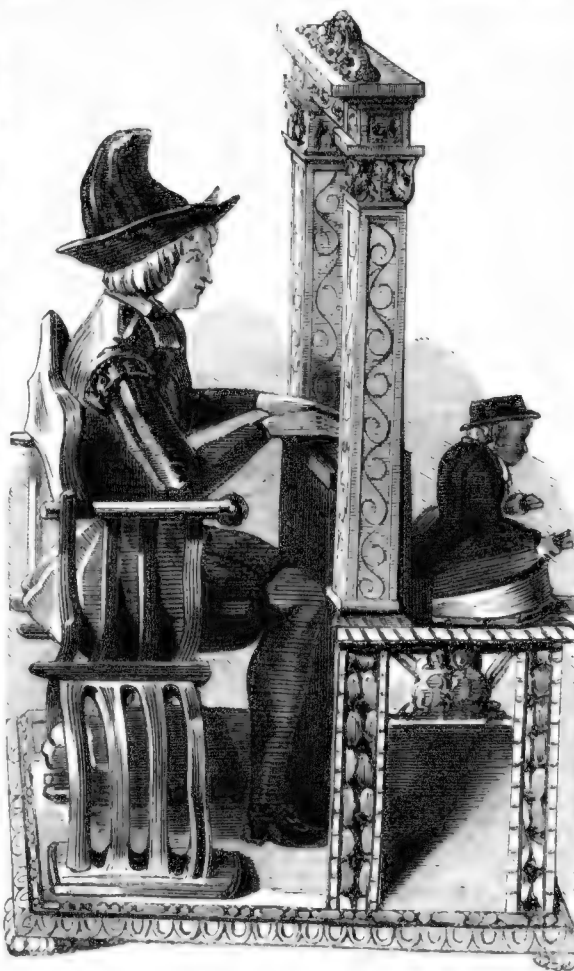
The *St. James's* and the *Sloppy Magazine* contain the usual average style of matter.

THE MONUMENT TO LORD HERBERT.—A public meeting was held on Thursday week at Willis's Rooms to consider the propriety of erecting a memorial to the late Lord Herbert. The meeting was very largely attended, and men of all ranks and parties shared in the proceedings. The chair was occupied by his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, and the first resolution was moved by the Prime Minister, and seconded by Lord Salisbury, and the motion was carried. The object of the memorial was very heartily responded to.

MAJOLICA WARE OF THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

THE name of "majolica" is indiscriminately applied to all the different kinds of painted earthenware which were made by the artist-workmen of Italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and, indeed, to that also which was made by Oriental workmen long before the art was practised in Italy. There is no doubt that the Moors, who in their turn had learnt the potter's art from the very ancient traditions of the Egyptians and Phœnicians, improved upon it by inventing new designs, new colours, and even new kinds of material, as the oldest specimens of their work differ in all these respects from anything which remains of antique work. That the Moors must have been accomplished workers in earthenware, both painted and moulded, early in the fourteenth century, is shown by the examples still remaining in the Alhambra, which was built in 1302. Besides the numerous coloured tiles, the modern reproductions of which in Mr. Owen Jones's model at the Crystal Palace are now familiar to us, there is a magnificent vase made by the same artists still preserved in the Alhambra. But even still earlier than this time, a colony of earthenware-workers had settled in the Island of Majorca; and, from the resemblance of this word to the name given to the ware, it has very commonly been considered that *Majorca* gave the name *Majolica*. It has, however, been stated that the term now so common is not older than the writings of Scaliger and Ferrari (1557-1676); and Mr. Bohn suggests that as there are book-bindings of great beauty which were done for the old family of Maioli of Ferrara (great promoters of the arts), from 1500 to 1530, and, as these are valued as much for their excellence as the majolica ware, it is possible the name may have been derived from this source. However this may be, it is known that the Pisans brought painted earthenware from Majorca in the twelfth century. Since the subject has been studied more accurately during the last twenty years, the different kinds of majolica have been spoken of both according to the place where they were made—as Faenza, Gubbio, Urbino, Pesaro, Castel Durante, Siena, &c., and even the masters who painted them. Faenza was an early seat of the work, and it was here that the ware of white ground with brown patterns touched with blue was made, which is known as "Hispano-Moorish." Our illustration, which represents a group of majolica as displayed in the case, does not happen to contain any good example of the kind; but there are several fine pieces in the South Kensington Museum which will be recognised from the description we have given. The three plates with sunk centres in the left-hand corner of the Engraving are similar in style but later in date. These early examples do not show any figure-subjects, as the Moorish taste was followed, which prohibited the imitation of animals. A remarkable feature in most of them is the glaze, which reflects various colours according to the position in which the light falls upon it. This is called "metallic lustre," from its giving the effect of copper, silver, and gold, and it is a beauty which was carried even to higher perfection in the later and more artistic productions of the genuine Italian workers in majolica—Giorgio Andreoli, Frau Xanto, and Orazio Fontana.

The earliest figure-subjects are seen on large dishes made at Pesaro, from 1480 to the early part of the next century. Most of these were presentation pieces given as love-pledges, and called "amatorii;" they bore the portrait of the fair one, and were inscribed with her name—as "Cecilia di Giorgio" (George's Cecilia), "Polisena bella" (the beautiful Polisena). The painting is rather coarse but bold, and in simple colours of blue in the outlines and yellow on white ground. Our illustration shows one of the finest examples of a portrait plate in existence. It is of the more advanced time and of the famous school of Urbino, the portrait being that of Perugino, the master of Raphael; and the colouring is exceedingly rich and perfect. This, as well as all the other examples drawn, belonged to the Soulages Collection, and is now in the South Kensington Museum. Early in the sixteenth century, under the patronage of the Duke of Urbino and the Montefeltro and Della Rovere families, the art progressed rapidly under the great masters, Timoteo Della Vite, of Urbino; Andreoli (Maestro Giorgio), of Gubbio; Francesco Xanto, of Urbino; and Orazio Fontana. All these renowned artists signed and dated their works. When one did the drawing and another the lustre colour, each signed his name on the back of the piece. It is said that Raphael himself even painted; and there is a plate in the British Museum showing Raphael and the Fornarina in the studio of a majolica-painter, which was purchased at the Bernal sale for £120 on the supposition that it was possibly by his hand. The ware has often been called Raphael ware; but this was from the designs of that great painter being copied by the majolica artists. In the row of plates above the portrait are three of excellent design and drawing; and on the plate on the right of the portrait is a very fine work signed by Maestro Giorgio; and equally good is the opposite one, representing a procession with Leo X. enthroned. Pieces of the finest quality of work and



ORGAN-PLAYER IN PAINTED EARTHENWARE.

taste are now extremely valuable. A very small vase, painted with Raphael figures, now in the possession of Mr. Mark Phillips, was sold for 400 guineas; and large plateaux of similar excellence, such as the magnificent one recently added to the collection of Mr. Addington, would be valued at a far higher price.

As examples of design which might well be held up to our manufacturers, we should point out the small centre plate above the portrait, and one in the line above, with arabesque border. The row of vases at the top contains some unrivalled specimens, particularly the pilgrim-bottles at each end, and the fine-shaped vase in Urbino ware to the right of the cistern in the centre, the painting of the historical subject on which is excellent. The taste for majolica has induced our manufacturers to enter with very great spirit into an attempt to reproduce the style. In most of the principal shops may now be seen some specimens of the revived majolica, and in some respects the modern work surpasses the old, as in the size and importance of the general design. But in nicety of drawing, in chasteness of ornament, and in the bright colours of the glazes, we have not yet succeeded in approaching the works of Maestro Giorgio and Fontana. The splendid iridescent tints seem to be quite beyond the modern chemistry of the furnace; the secret of this beauty died with the last of the Andreoli family. Yet it is to be regretted that no effort seems to be made at recovering an ornament that seems to throw a wonderful air of magic beauty over the work. The splendid lustre of old majolica might be compared to the effect of a brilliant and clear complexion over fine features.

One of the evident defects in modern majolica is that the outline of the figure-subjects, and even of the landscape, is drawn in brown, which gives a peculiarly heavy look to the work. The old masters avoided this by outlining and hatching in blue.

The curiously-shaped vase with dragon-head handles may be taken as an example of Palissy ware, of which there are several remarkable specimens at South Kensington. Bernard Palissy invented this style, which bears his name and is known by the general character of the work, being modelled and painted in imitation of natural objects, such as flowers, fruit, fish, lizards, frogs, &c. The singular caprice representing an organ-player with his assistant bellows-blower is a work in the Palissy manner; it is interesting as showing a chair of the precise kind we recently described. Modern Palissy ware is made to imitate the genuine very closely, but where deception is not intended it is evident that our potters are more successful in this style of work than in their painted plaques, and we suspect that there is a development of art-work in this direction which, after the style of Luca della Robbia, might be brought to bear in a highly important manner upon architectural decoration, and even ornamental construction, especially in situations where smoke and damp soon deprive stone carving of nearly all its beauty.

M. FOULD.

THERE are not a few who believe that France has been saved by the new Minister of Finance. The calmness with which his plain-speaking

pamphlet was received by the Emperor had scarcely done moving the surprise of the uninstructed public when there followed not only an Imperial confession of impecuniosity, but an act which guaranteed the confidence which the pamphleteer had long before inspired as a financier who could both foresee and avert a crisis. The result is but another proof of the consummate knowledge of the French people possessed by the Emperor Napoleon III. and of the sagacity of M. Achille Fould.

M. Fould will occupy a very prominent position in the history of France when its true history comes to be written, for he has followed the fortunes of Governments, keeping always to the rôle to which he is best adapted both by education and ability. It will doubtless be interesting to our readers to know something of his career.

Born in Paris on the 31st of October, 1800, M. Fould commenced his education at the Lyceum of Charlemagne, although his interest in financial matters may be said to have begun with his childhood, for his father, who died in 1855, was a wealthy Jewish banker, and the boy received an initiation in the affairs of the commercial establishment even at the time that he was studying the fine arts, and probably his journey through Italy and the East was not altogether unconnected with some of the monetary relations of the house.

His political life commenced in 1842, since, although he had previously been a member of the Council General of the Upper Pyrenees, he was in that year elected deputy for Terres, the chef-lieu of the department. A very short time sufficed to place him in the position of a competent and reliable authority upon all matters of finance and political economy, and the Chamber of Deputies listened to him with respect whenever he spoke upon such subjects as customs dues, taxes, and the whole range of subjects which make up the clauses of a budget. One of his largest themes was the conversion of the national debt into a uniform inscription, a plan which he has not yet abandoned and



EARLY PAINTED EARTHENWARE, GROUPED FROM THE ORIGINALS IN THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.

will doubtless endeavour to carry out. During the period of M. Guizot's Ministry he supported the foreign policy of that statesman; but when the Revolution of 1848 had altered the state of things he accepted the inevitable condition of the new Government with moderate complacency, if not with perfect content, so that the Provisional Government were able to profit by his advice and assistance, though some of the members afterwards accused him of having urged such extreme measures of finance as were almost hopeless. In spite of opposition, however, he was elected deputy for the Seine at the Constituent Assembly of July, 1848. It was during this difficult period that he published the pamphlets entitled "No Assignats," and "Opinion of M. Fould on Assignats," in which he declares the economical policy held by some of the leading men of the time to be entirely unsafe. The confidence of the Assembly in the experienced financier was still more consolidated by his remarks in the Chamber upon savings banks, Exchequer bills, taxes on drinks, and the plan for the completion of the Louvre.

With Louis Napoleon as President, M. Fould seems to have been so highly appreciated as to be chosen four times Minister of Finance at a period of terrible commercial depression and uncertainty. He opposed and eventually overcame numerous propositions for taxes upon income and property, while at the same time he substituted the receivers-general instead of the bankers as agents for paying off, by subscriptions opened in their departments, rentes arising from various sources. By a similar operation loans have been since successfully raised, when the enormous expenses of the Empire succeeded the more moderate wants of the Republic.

Notwithstanding the differences which frequently arose between the President and the Minister—differences which led to repeated resignations of office—M. Fould was appointed Finance Minister at the time of the coup-d'état in December, 1851, and again resigned in the following January, in consequence of the decree respecting the property of the family of Orleans. He was named a senator on the same day; and,

to have been the perfection of its class—the elder Mathews's "At Home." This perfection was partly owing to the eccentric material in point of character which then existed in society; partly to the ability of certain writers, such as Peake, Moncrieff,

street-preacher and a street-reader of Ariosto—*Rinaldo a la Napolitana*—the latter of which, especially, is a most masterly assumption. After a trip to Wales, which enables him to refresh us with an old favourite—his Welsh ballad of "Jenny

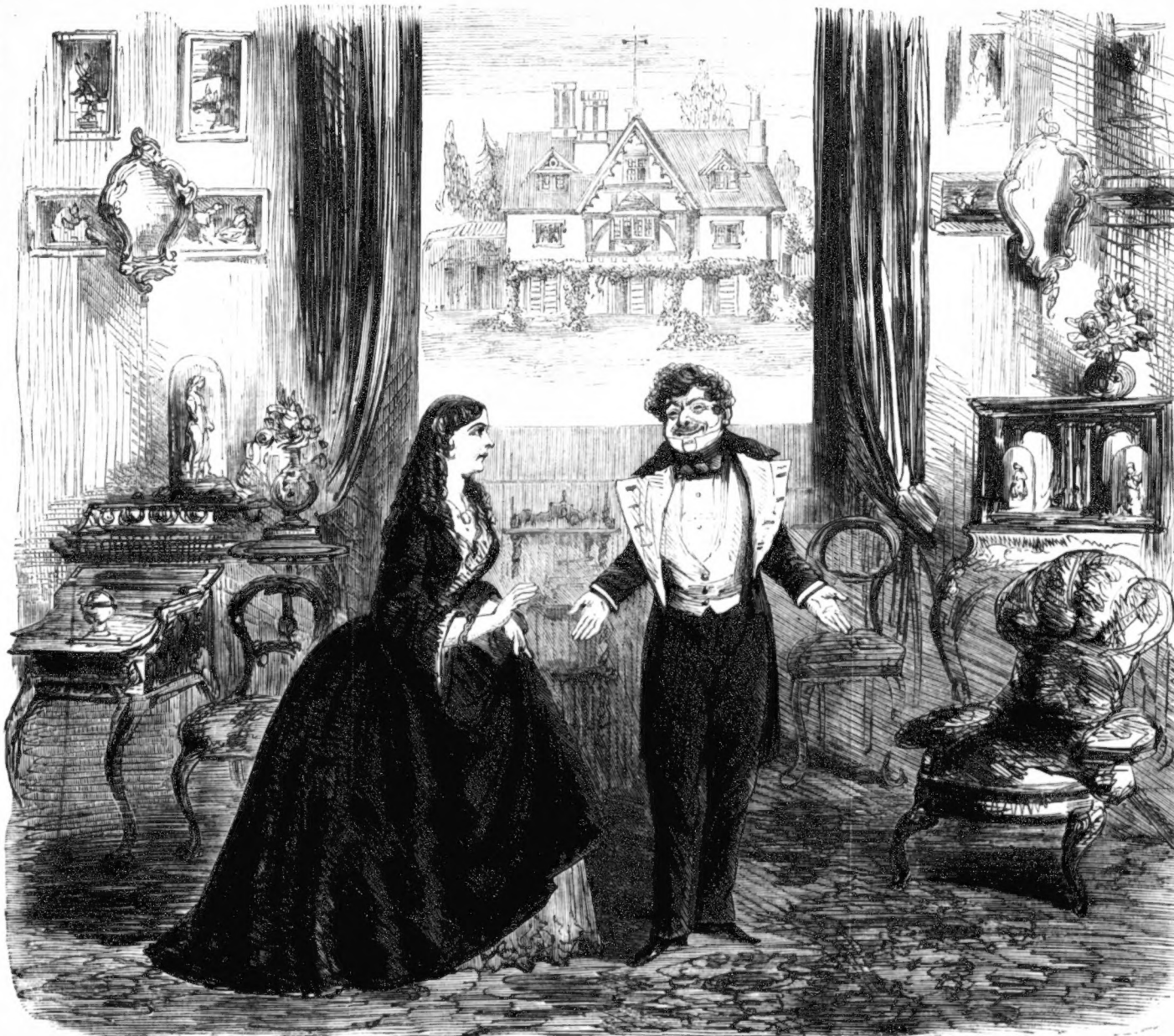
and Reynolds, to give this material its best expression; and lastly, and above all, to the extraordinary powers of a comedian whose sense of character was so unlimited and whose gifts for its conveyance were so wonderful, as to render him a phenomenon in the records of his art.

Mr. Charles Mathews the younger, the worthy heir to his father's fame as a various and finished comedian, follows his father's just example in quitting the stage for a freer field, in which it is just as positive that he will reign without a rival. Mr. Mathews starts in his own drawing-room, with his clever and agreeable wife, discussing the question of an entertainment, and his difficulty in finding a subject. Mrs. Mathews speedily suggests that his own history would be the best to begin with, and he, adopting the notion, divides it into two parts—that of its romance and of its reality, which he further illustrates by the aid of Mr. O'Connor, of the Haymarket, in a series of clever views depicting the chief localities. Starting with his school days at the Merchant Taylors', and afterwards at Dr. Richardson's, the well-known lexicographer, he brings us to his father's house, "Ivy Lodge," when that hospitable roof was the resort of some of the first wits and thinkers of the day—Coleridge, Hazlitt, Charles Lamb, Leigh Hunt, and many others. Then, making a trip to Paris, which enables him to see French acting, and also to present us with a portrait of the clever Perlet, he becomes articulated as an architect to the celebrated Pugin, and goes to Italy to complete his studies under the convoy of Lord Blessington. Arriving at his villa at Naples—the Palazzo Belvedere—he tells us of the brilliant company that then attended these reunions, numbering, from time to time, among others, Byron, Denon, and Sir W. Gell, and reproduces two of the characters he met with on the Mole of Naples—an Italian

and an excursion to the Highlands at the invitation of the Duchess of Bedford, he starts in active life by obtaining the appointment of district surveyor to Bethnal-green and Bow, his details of which occupation are among the most amusing of his reminiscences. A second trip to Italy serves to present some illustrations of Rome, Venice, and other cities, and he concludes the first portion or romance of his entertainment by a serenade, "Il Contadino," and the dance of the Tarentella between himself and Mrs. Mathews. With the second part commences the reality of his existence, and, we are also constrained to say, the somewhat less amusing. The death and embarrassments of his father compelling him to adopt the stage, he makes his first appearance at the Olympic, when under the management of Mme. Vestris, and, shortly afterwards marrying her, makes his first trip with her to America. On his return thence he assumes the management of Covent-garden Theatre, which enables him to furnish us with a variety of comic details of managerial embarrassment, both dramatic and financial, which he illustrates partly in the person of a country actor coming to London for an engagement—Barndoor Fowler, Esq.—who can mimic Mr. Mathews, and so enables him to reproduce some of his



M. FOULD, THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF FINANCE.



MR. CHARLES MATHEWS AT HOME.

MR. AND MRS. C. MATHEWS "AT HOME."

It is now some seven- and - twenty years ago that the London public ceased to enjoy an annual comic entertainment which may very confidently be pronounced

popular characters from "Patter versus Clatter"—as well as in the person of a dramatic author, Scriblerimus Worret, who attacks him, armed to the teeth with manuscripts, and who treats him to a scena à la Parry on the subject of St. George and the Dragon. He then details the opening of the Lyceum and its disastrous result—his visit to the Insolvent Court, and ultimately a second trip to America, which brings his story to a close. Such is the entertainment, the merits of which, in the first place, are its excellent impersonations, both by himself and Mrs. Mathews, the two Italian portraits being the most remarkable on his part; and the lady's maid in difficulties, Master Pumps, the crying schoolboy, and Mrs. Dubbin, the householder, who is savagely averse to taxes, being the best marked on the part of his wife. A further merit is its sparkling narrative, which has all the stamp of its writer's mind, spirited, terse, and playful, of which we may quote a specimen sentence—that, when fulfilling his duties as a surveyor, from which he never derived a shilling, "he went for three years to Bow on the top of an omnibus with the Building Act in his hand." A third feature is in the clever sketches of Italian and other scenery with which, as we have said, Mr. O'Connor has illustrated the story. The sole defect of the entertainment was its undue length on the first night, which we have no doubt has by this time been sufficiently removed, so that we can look forward to this first adventure proving as long-lived and as profitable as its projector could desire.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

MR. BALFE'S new opera, "The Puritan's Daughter," was produced at Covent Garden on Saturday evening with a success which, though great, was nothing more than its merits will be found to warrant. It is as full of tune as "The Rose of Castille," "The Bohemian Girl," or any other of the composer's popular works; and, though the subject is certainly a hackneyed one—being a story of the "marriage monarch" in difficulties, together with the loves of a Cavalier youth and a Puritan maiden—the pen of Mr. J. V. Bridgeman has been so well employed with it that we may congratulate Mr. Balfe on a libretto which considerably enhances the effect of his music.

The overture raises expectation to an agreeably high pitch, and the opening chorus maintains it most effectively. The promise, be it observed, is not of elaborate orchestration or concerted vocal pieces, but of the sequence of melody which has made Mr. Balfe so great a favourite, and which he seemed to have relinquished for a more ambitious style when he gave us "The Bravo's Bride." And this promise the audience were delighted to find kept throughout the opera. All the taking airs were simple, even to the utmost slightness; several of the accompanying instrumental effects were gained by merely doubling the voice parts, and most of the choruses were in unison. But if Mr. Balfe has gone nearly to extremes in his recantation of scientific principles, and has determined to stand on his well-proved fame as a ballad-writer, he has weighted this new work of his with something which well supplies the place of learned display. To the beauty of songs, duets, and trios which will soon be heard in every concert-room, he has brought so much dramatic expression that, small as may be the pretence of his work to rank musically with the elaborate compositions of Meyerbeer, it actually reminds us of that master by its vigorous and startling transitions, as well as by a sustained breadth of purpose with which all those transitions are coloured, and which enables them to take "the name of action." We do not purpose following the thread of the drama. As we have already observed, Mr. Bridgeman is content to take a period of English history—that following the Commonwealth—which nobody believes to have been "better than it should be," and which all who have outlived the fascinations of romance consider a good deal worse. Selecting this period, or possibly having it forced upon him, Mr. Bridgeman does all that might have been expected of a scholarly man and a practised writer. He is too sensible to adopt that gay species of cant which gives all the manly generosity, together with all the fine songs and finer silks and feathers, to one side of the "Cavalier and Roundhead" business; and, on the other hand, he does not think it quite necessary, for the purposes of the lyric stage, to fly full in the face of tradition. On the whole, he treats a worn-out subject so skilfully as to make it appear new; but it is not so much for absolute originality as for observance of "the proprieties" that we have to praise Mr. Bridgeman. His writing is good honest literature—rare enough in other pages than those of opera-books, which are mostly covered with rubbish "too stupid," as Cobbett remarked, "to be spoken, and therefore condemned always to be sung."

The part of the Puritan's daughter, Mary Wolf—the Puritan being Colonel Wolf, of the dispersed Cromwellite army—is charmingly played by Miss Louisa Pyne, who, with her sister, has lately been prevented by family trouble from appearing on the stage. The health of Mr. Pyne, the father of the two ladies whom we have missed from their public sphere, has somewhat improved, and it is hoped that he has passed an alarming crisis of his malady. The audience gave such a welcome to both the Misses Pyne as demonstrated a personal sympathy over and above the pleasure of welcoming back the first of English vocalists and her sister. The new part, in which Miss Louisa Pyne is now thoroughly at home, suits her, perhaps, better than any she has yet assumed; and it is certain that her performance, historically as well as musically, suits the part in a manner suggesting the impossibility of its being filled by another artist. For once Mr. Harrison did not represent the lover, but as the lively Rochester made it his "pleasure to be drunk," and was equally effective in the assumption of an unsteady gait and utterance and in the trolling of bacchanalian ditties. In particular, one of these, exalting the merits of puce, will soon be echoed near and far, for it is the best drinking-song written in late days. The lover of Mary is a gentleman and a baritone named Clifford, and very admirably was he personified in both capacities by Mr. S. Inley, the melodious air of whose ballad in G flat, "Oh, would that I had died ere now!" is reproduced and strengthened in the recollection of the audience by Miss Pyne's voice at the close of the first act. Miss Pyne herself completely revels in a cavatina, opening with the words, "Pretty, lowly, modest flower," and passing from a most delicious phrase, with a full cadence, to a second part which greatly enriches the effect of the entire song. Besides the solo gems which we have specified and others which we have not, there are duets, trios, and quartets almost as effective, and, in point of writing, even more meritorious. A trio in the second act, "By the tempest overtaken," is a remarkable instance in point; and following it is another excellent trio, "My welcome also." Dramatically, as we have said, this opera is entitled to high consideration. The presence of a dramatic idea to the composer's mind is constantly apparent; nor do we think it too much to attribute this fact in great degree to Mr. Bridgeman's authorship. Repetitions of melody, suggested by recurrences of thought and turns in the course of the drama, are felicitously introduced. Mr. Balfe has even been tempted to reproduce his well-known air, "The Power of Love," as the concluding symphony of a long buffo song, which falls to the lot of Mr. George H. in the character of a comic servant.

The opera is capably mounted, and the management of all matters on the stage reflects the highest credit on Mr. Leigh Murray. At the conclusion of the performance on the first night, not only were the chief singers, the composer, and Mr. Alfred Mellon summoned in front of the curtain, but a hearty and spontaneous call was made for Mr. Bridgeman, who was led forward by Mr. Balfe amid renewed plaudits. It is the first time, we believe, that a librettist has fairly divided public commendation with a highly popular composer.

The Popular Concert on Monday at St. James's Hall was as good as either of the two which have preceded it. In fact, we need fear but little falling away from the standard of excellence which the directors of this musical series have set up. The first piece on the

programme of the third concert was Beethoven's grand septet in E flat, op. 20, for violin, viola, clarinet, horn, bassoon, violoncello, and double bass. The performers were MM. Vieuxtemps, H. Webb, Lazarus, C. Harper, J. Hutchins, C. Severn, and Pague, whose individual excellence and perfect accord left nothing to be desired. The adagio in nine-eight time was even too striking in its effect on the audience, who scarcely restrained their desire to applaud out of place. The second instrumental piece in the programme was the sonata in E minor, op. 90, which Mr. Charles Hallé played in his best and least heavy style, provoking that same injudicious display of approval on the part of the audience which so nearly marred the most exquisite movement in the septet. His performance of the allegro passages in the first movement of the sonata was positively interrupted several times by applause. The second division of the sonata is in E major, and is an allegretto movement of surpassing beauty, with a frequent recurrence of the leading theme. It was exquisitely played, the final cadence bringing the whole to a close worthy such a work. Dussak's revived sonata in G, for violin and piano, now an established favourite at these concerts, was again played by MM. Vieuxtemps and Hallé; and the entertainment terminated with Haydn's quartet in C, op. 33, for two violins, viola, and violoncello, which was introduced for the first time. As we predicted, Mozart's "clarinet quintet" in A major, which made so great a sensation at the second concert, is to be repeated, and will form a feature of next Monday's programme. On this occasion, too, Miss Arabella Goddard will perform.

BAYSWATER ATHENÆUM.—LECTURE BY MR. EDMUND YATES.

ON Saturday last a very amusing lecture—or, perhaps, we ought to say, in strict justice, an entertainment—was delivered by Mr. Edmund Yates at the Bayswater Athenæum upon "Modern Society, with Thoughts on and Illustrations of its various Component Parts." The theme, as will at once be seen, is a good one, which readily lends itself to the purposes of popular illustration, and the great merit of Mr. Yates is that he discourses upon it in the spirit of an acute observer, who makes use of his own observations instead of copying the more or less distorted delineations of those by whom he has been preceded. Speaking in general terms, nothing can be more truthful than his sketch of an evening party, with portraits of the principal persons who have been invited to it. Thus he introduces us to the "swell," who languidly leans against the door "caressing" his whiskers, and who will not dance until the belle of the evening enters. Then he makes us acquainted with the "bashful young man," who is the "slow party" of the soirée; afterwards to that objectionable person, the "funny man;" and finally to the "agreeable rattle," and the gentleman who proposes the host's health. All these are depicted with much truthfulness of detail, and without any of that exaggeration which characterises the embodiments usually met with in popular entertainments. Mr. Yates has, indeed, a horror of exaggeration, and feels no sympathy with the man who puts on a red wig in order to make himself look ridiculous, or who starts up in an impossible attitude, as Sir Fizzig Fizzewig, and proclaims himself the representative of a titled Englishman. In what may be called the second part of his entertainment Mr. Yates quits private society and enters into the world at large. Then he introduces to us cold-shoulder-givers, bores of various kinds, the man with a grievance, the medical man of the Abernethy school and the hopped-lady's doctor of the present day, the Old Bailey barrister, the heavy tragedian, the low comedian, and the wandering lecturer. After these follow sketches of the omnibus and cab drivers, and the street boys—classes which Mr. Yates has evidently studied attentively, and the peculiarities of which he reproduces exactly as they have fallen under his notice. In all these delineations a good deal of observation is displayed, and a keen sense of the ludicrous. Mr. Yates makes no attempt to go below the surface; he is content to keep on the upper level, and his audience follow him there in all security. Of that which comes within the range of his experience he tells all he knows; of that from which he is shut out he candidly confesses he knows nothing. In manner and mode of delivery he very strongly resembles the late Mr. Albert Smith. Indeed, he has evidently taken that captivating entertainer as his model, and has even adopted many of his views and experiences. The "funny man" of Mr. Yates bears a strong family likeness to the Jack Johnson of Mr. Albert Smith; his bashful young man is Mr. Leabury; and more than one of his descriptions seem to have been suggested by the "Physiology of Evening Parties." Mr. Yates, too, is easy and colloquial in his address, and from the first establishes himself on the best of terms with his audience. As a matter of course he at once gains their confidence, and very soon succeeds in obtaining their favour. On Saturday last his lecture excited throughout the utmost merriment, and we doubt not that wherever it may be delivered the same result will be observable.

REFRESHMENTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF 1862.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of the International Exhibition held on Friday week the various tenders sent in for the supply of refreshments were considered and decided upon. The successful competitors are Mr. F. E. Morrish, of Liverpool, and Mr. W. Sanders, late of the Great Western Hotel, for the western division; and M. Veillard, of 59, Mark-lane, and M. Martin, of Paris, for the eastern block. Mr. Morrish, although not unknown in London, has made Liverpool the scene of his principal achievements; and at the present moment he has four large restaurants in full operation in that town, where his admirable management generally secures for him the supply of refreshments at all the balls and great assemblies in St. George's Hall. Mr. Sanders, who is associated with Mr. Morrish, has had great experience as a caterer at some of the principal clubs in London—last at the Senior United Service, in Pall-mall. M. Veillard has been largely concerned for some years in the importation of French provisions into this country, and his partner, M. Martin, has a reputation founded upon his successful management for some years of the Café de Paris, on the Boulevard des Italiens. These gentlemen have made arrangements with the eminent house of Valentin, of Paris, for the exclusive supply of French and German wines in their division of the Exhibition. Without presuming to state the precise sum tendered by the two successful competitors, we can very confidently name it as exceeding £30,000.

THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.—This gallery is again open to the public in Great George-street, Westminster. The rooms have been improved by repainting, and by a slight addition of furniture. Several portraits have also been added, among others that of Whitfield, painted by Westall. A marble bust of Lord Stowell, formerly in Doctors' Commons, has also been added to the collection. A portrait of Sir Richard Arkwright, by Wright, of Derby, has been placed by the side of Dr. Darwin. The last donation received was a portrait of George, Lord Lyttelton, presented by his descendant, the present Lord. The gallery now contains 133 portraits in busts and paintings.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—On Thursday a meeting of this institution was held at its house, John-street, Adelphi—Thomas Chapman, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair. The third service of the institution was voted to Captain Joachim, R.N., in testimony of his additional gallant services on three different occasions during the month of November in the Lowestoft life-boat. Rewards amounting to £61 were also voted to the crews of the life-boats of the society at Yarmouth, Calster, Lowestoft, Pakefield, and Castletown, for putting off and saving forty-seven lives from the following distressed vessels:—Smack Adventure, of Harwick; brig Lively, of Clay, Norfolk; barque Undaunted, of Aberdeen; pilot cutter, of Whim, and lugger Saucy Lass, of Lowestoft; schooner Eliza Ann, of Dublin. Rewards amounting to £28 were likewise granted to the crews of the life-boats of the institution stationed at Holyhead, Brighton, Fleetwood, Buckle, and Bridlington, for either going off to succour the crews of vessels in distress or assembling in stormy weather in order to be ready for any emergency that might have arisen. Within the last two years the life-boats of the institution had directly saved nearly 500 seamen from a watery grave, not a few of whom are now probably enrolled amongst our patriotic naval coast volunteers. In addition to the important services thus conferred on such a large number of our fellow-creatures, probably 1000 persons have been thus spared from being widows and orphans by these valuable life-boat services. A gratuity of £10 was voted in aid of a local subscription for the relief of the widow and children of John Gerrari, a fisherman, of Burton-Bradstock, near Bridport, who perished a few weeks ago while engaged in saving the lives of his neighbours, whose boat had been capsized in a heavy ground-swell. It was reported that the collection in the churches and chapels, and from benevolent persons in Ipswich, had realized nearly £500—the cost of a life-boat station which the town had generously decided on presenting to the institution. It was also stated that one or two other towns were following the example of Ipswich, and were engaged in raising funds to present to the institution the cost of life-boats to be called after such towns, and thus practically show that, although they cannot be on the coast to help in saving life, yet they can provide the means whereby the great work can be efficiently accomplished. The Dublin and Dundee life-boat committee had decided to place their several life-boat establishments under the control of this institution. At both places their five or six life-boats will require to be replaced by new ones. Drawings of the life-boat and transporting-carriage of the society had, on application, been sent to Constantinople, Hamburg, Marseilles, and Santander (Spain). Payments having been made to various life-boat establishments, the proceedings closed.

SPEECHES ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

MR. BRIGHT AT ROCHESTER.

ON Wednesday evening Mr. Bright was entertained at a banquet in Rochester, and, in reply to the toast of his health, made some remarks on American affairs. He attributed the secession of the South to the slavery question, and to this alone; said there was no analogy between circumstances attending the separation of the colonies from England and the present secession of the South; declared that we had not shown a proper sympathy for the North in the existing difficulty; thought we ought to have been utterly neutral in action, but ought naturally to have sympathized with the opponents of slavery; and said that the idea of letting the South secede amicably was attended with grave geographical and practical difficulties which could not be ignored, and were not so easily overcome as some people seemed to imagine. The complete union of that vast continent in one great federation of States, where there would be no customhouse, but freedom everywhere—equality everywhere—law everywhere—and room for the expanding energies of our race—would be infinitely preferable to its subdivision into a number of small rival States, whose fabled interests would clash and produce continual differences and obstacles to progress and happiness. Referring to the seizure of the Confederate Commissioners, he said he considered the act both impolitic and bad, but it may turn out to be wholly unauthorised by the American Government, and in this case there is no doubt they would make ample reparation. It was said this is only one of a series of acts showing ill-will on the part of the North. There will be irritating accidents in the course of the struggle. Let us be calm. Recollect how we were dragged into the Russian War. We drifted into it. It cost one hundred million pounds, it cost the lives of forty thousand Englishmen, it injured our trade—it doubled the armies of Europe, and did not accomplish a single thing that was promised. Statesmen now said, in exasperation, "What could we do in the frenzy of the public mind at that time?" Don't let them add to the frenzy, and don't let us be driven. Mr. Bright then read an extract from General Scott's letter, which was loudly cheered, and concluded by reminding the meeting of the large number of English people who have emigrated during the last fifteen years to the States. Only misrepresentation, the most gross calumny, or the most wicked, can involve in war two peoples with such close ties.

COLONIAL MINISTERS AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

MR. HOWE, the Prime Minister of Nova Scotia, and Mr. Auley, who occupies a similar office in New Brunswick, have delivered addresses on the present state of affairs in America at Ashton-under-Lyne. Mr. Howe especially gave expression to decidedly anti-Federal views of the American War, and represented that public opinion in the colonies had turned in the same direction, because the Northerners had threatened to compensate themselves for the loss of the South by the annexation of British territory.

LORD R. MONTAGU AT RAMSEY.

LORD Robert Montagu on Wednesday evening addressed a meeting at Ramsey, Isle of Man, on America and American democracy, and in the course of his speech maintained that there never was a real union in the States, that the Northerners were not entitled to take credit for wishing to abolish slavery, and that the South were justified in attempting to throw off the connection with the North if they find the connection inconsistent with their interests. There must either be a central controlling power to compel union, or there must be the right to secede at will. The American people in separating from England had repudiated the first of these principles, and must now submit to the action of the second.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

FINSBURY.—Mr. Sleigh having retired, it was believed that Mr. Remington Mills would have a "walk over" in that borough. This, however, is not to be, Mr. Cox having come forward and declared his intention to contest the election. Both candidates are now busy canvassing and holding meetings. As Mr. Cox has only been a few days in the field, it is scarcely possible as yet to calculate the chances of either candidate.

NOTTINGHAM.—In consequence of the elevation of Mr. J. Mellor, Q.C., one of the members for this borough, to the vacant judgeship, a vacancy in the representation has occurred. Several gentlemen have been already mentioned, amongst whom are Mr. S. Morley, of London; Mr. Webb, the new proprietor of Newcastle Abbey; and Mr. Heymann, lace-manufacturer, Nottingham, on the Liberal interest; and the Earl of Lincoln, the eldest son of the Duke of Newcastle, on the Liberal-Conservative side. The Earl of Lincoln, from the great influence of his noble father in the town, would prove a formidable opponent. Mr. Heymann is a gentleman who has been for some years a resident in Nottingham, and is one of the largest manufacturers in the town. He formerly served the office of Mayor. Mr. Thomas Bromley, son of the late Sir R. Bromley, of Stoke (Notts), who contested the borough on the Conservative side at the last election, is, it is said, willing to come forward again; and it is understood he will be brought forward by the party. Should he decline Capt. Denman, R.N., is spoken of.

BIRKENHEAD.—The writ for the new borough of Birkenhead has been received by the returning officer, who has appointed Monday next for the nomination and Tuesday for the polling.

DEPARTURE OF SIR JAMES BROOKE FROM SARAWAK.—On the 23rd of September the Sarawak steamer Rainbow reached Singapore with Sir James Brooke, who has just taken a final leave of the settlements of Sarawak. Before leaving, Sir James assembled the chiefs under his sway, and said that, the state of his health requiring repose, he had made over the Government to Captain Brooke, as Rajah Muda. If any future event should again require his presence he was ready, he said, to return to them again. The natives were deeply affected at this parting interview, and many of them testified by tears the sincerity of their attachment for their white rajah. Sir James has left Sarawak in a state of happiness and commercial prosperity. The steam-mills of the Borneo Company, the manufacturing of the Chinese, the establishment of a sugar company, the large plantations of tapioca and of sago, all testify to the well-being of the settlement. In future the steamer Rainbow is to run twice a month between Sarawak and Singapore, and it is stated that a steam gun-boat will also be employed to preserve order on the coast. At Singapore Sir James Brooke has met with a warm and richly-merited reception. On the evening of the 7th of October a grand entertainment, in the shape of a ball and supper to him, was given by the merchants and other residents at Singapore, which appears to have passed off very pleasantly.

THE ARMSTRONG AND WHITWORTH ARTILLERY.—Last week the Ordnance Select Committee attended at Shoeburyness to continue their tests with 100-pounder Armstrong shells filled with molten iron. It had been affirmed that the Armstrong shell could not be used for this purpose, on the ground that the heat of the liquid iron would fuse the lead covering which surrounds the shell. The experiments, however, have shown that the shells can be used for molten metal with as much advantage as the common spherical shells of smooth-bored ordnance. The Armstrong shell when employed for this purpose is lined with a non-conducting material, which effectually confines the heat, and prevents it from in the slightest degree injuring the outer covering during the interval required for loading. Experiments were also last week made, in presence of Lord Palmerston and Sir George C. Lewis, with the object of ascertaining if the Whitworth gun could be manipulated with that ease which, supposing any other objections against it were removed, might render it not only a serviceable battery but field gun, and for this purpose several rounds were fired from the 70-pounder, from the two 12-pounders, and from the brass rifled gun. The result was a perfect admission on the part of those present that the trials had been thoroughly satisfactory.

GENERAL SCOTT IN PARIS.—A numerously-attended meeting of American residents in Paris assembled a few days ago, at the Hotel Westminster, to present their respects to General Scott, on the occasion of his arrival in that city. His Excellency Mr. Dayton, the United States' Minister, in addressing the General on behalf of his countrymen in Paris, assured him of their sincere respect for himself personally, and their high appreciation of the value of his long services to his country, referring particularly to the activity and energy displayed in his recent loyal defence of the capital when threatened by the Confederates of the South, and declaring that his countrymen would ever cherish in their hearts a grateful recollection of his name. He expressed their regret at the feeble state of his health, and their wishes for its speedy restoration, and trusted that, on his return home, he would find his country once more happy and united and more prosperous than ever. General Scott, who seemed much affected at the compliment paid him, replied in suitable terms, expressing his warm thanks, after which the gentlemen withdrew. A copy of verses, from the pen of Mr. Horner, was presented to the General in honour of his arrival in Paris.

BRIHAM YOUNG LOOKING FORWARD TO A LONG WAR.—Brigham Young has sent three hundred Mormons, with their families, to colonise the southern portion of Utah Territory in order to strengthen the settlements already there, "in view," says the *Deseret News*, "of the great demand there will be for cotton and other products of a warmer climate than Great Salt Lake and the surrounding valleys, in the event that the civil war in the East should continue for a number of years." This is a sagacious movement on the part of the Mormon prophet; but Government has recently set apart this section of the country for an Indian reservation, and Brigham's squatters will have to vacate. The Gentiles have got ahead of him this time, and the "patriarchal institution" will not have an opportunity to spread itself over the fertile and genial valleys of Southern Utah.

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